



DEPARTMENT OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION &  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

# MISSOURI ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE REPORT

# 2023



# 2023 ECONOMIC REPORT

## A TIME OF ECONOMIC CHANGE

The 2023 Missouri Economic and Workforce Report provides a broad overview of Missouri's economy in the last year, tracking a selection of meaningful indicators. For the last three years, this annual report included unique economic circumstances as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing recovery. The 2023 report finds many economic indicators have returned to or even exceeded pre-pandemic levels.

The data contained in this report largely focuses on economic activity in Missouri during the most recent complete calendar year, using a variety of the most reliable and proven economic and workforce data resources available. Typically, these high-quality sources have some lag in publication due to the sound and thorough methodologies used to ensure accurate and reliable data. Analysis of economic shifts will always rely on these key sources for the most precise representation of the economy, and Missouri will continue to monitor these indicators to assess the state's economic health. It is valuable to have a comprehensive review of the state's economy, even if some of the indicators lag.

Data for 2022 show growth for the state and U.S. economies, with an increase in gross domestic output and employment across most sectors. The state's unemployment rate during 2022 reached the lowest rate of the series since collection began in 1976.

The tight labor market was a significant economic trend during 2022 and through the first half of 2023. Labor force participation rates have improved, but remain below pre-pandemic levels and there are more job openings than the current civilian labor force can fill. Late 2022 and early 2023 saw some easing as unemployment rates have increased slightly and consumer price increases have mitigated somewhat from the highs of 2022. Statewide, the unemployment rate still remains below 3.0 percent.

Growth in the state varies depending on region. The Ozark Region had the most rapid employment growth, while the St. Louis Region has the highest wages. The profiles in this report show the different composition of and opportunities in the regions of the state, along with regional 2020-2030 industry and occupation projections highlights. It is important to note that the projections timeframe includes both the rapid recovery in the time most immediately impacted by the pandemic (2020-2022), along with the growth for the years following (2022-2030). This is of particular note for occupations related to accommodations, entertainment, food services, and retail trade, where much of the projected growth can likely be attributed to the rebound from closures and lifestyle changes in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Projections data for 2022-2032 will be released in the summer of 2024. To track the most current trends between reports, visit the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center website at [meric.mo.gov](http://meric.mo.gov).

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# 2023 ECONOMIC REPORT

# SHOW ME

## THE FACTS

- Missouri's GDP totaled \$300.7 billion in 2022 in 2012 inflation-adjusted dollars, a 1.7 percent increase from 2021 to 2022.
- Per capita income in Missouri was \$56,551 in 2022, a 2.2 percent increase from 2021. In 2022, Missouri's total personal income was \$349.37 billion, a 2.4 percent increase over 2021.
- Missouri grew at an annualized rate of 1.02 percent to equal \$29.14 billion in growth over the past 10 years, or a 10.7 percent GDP increase overall.
- In 2022, Service-providing industries contributed 72.1 percent, Good-producing industries contributed 18.1 percent, and the Government sector contributed 10.5 percent to the Missouri GDP.
- Most industry sectors experienced a positive growth in GDP.
- *The Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting* industry had the largest yearly growth in GDP, at 18.2 percent. The largest negative yearly growth was in *Construction* industry at -12.1 percent.
- Missouri's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April 2023 was 2.5 percent, similar to April 2022 (2.3%) and an improvement from April 2021 (4.6%). Missouri's current unemployment rate is continuing at some of the lowest rates in the last decade.
- Estimates for April 2023 show nonfarm employment in the state increased by 2.1 percent compared to April 2022, adding 60,000 jobs.
- Only the *Utilities* industry sector lost jobs between 2021 and 2022. *Accommodation and Food Services* (+17,128 jobs); *Manufacturing* (+11,421 jobs); and *Construction* (+7,019 jobs) are the top three industry sectors in terms of employment gains.
- In 2023, the Northeast and Northwest regions were merged to make a greater "North" region.
- From 2021 to 2022, all regions recorded positive employment growth with Ozark region leading at 3.3 percent growth and North region experiencing the lowest growth rate at 1.1 percent. Statewide, the employment growth was 0.9 percent from 2018 to 2022 and 2.9 percent from 2021 to 2022.
- The statewide average wage in 2022 was \$59,225. The St. Louis and Kansas City regions had wages higher than the state average, with average wages of \$67,215 and \$63,264, respectively.
- The St. Louis Region is the largest, in terms of employment, with over one million employees in 2022. The Kansas City and Central regions had the next highest employment with over 553,300 and over 284,800 employees, respectively.



# CURRENT TRENDS

In 2022, Missouri's economy grew by 1.7 percent compared to the previous year, as measured by gross domestic product (GDP). Nationally, GDP increased by 2.1 percent over the same period. Likewise, Missouri's nonfarm payroll employment grew in 2022 and 2023 so far. Estimates for April 2023 show nonfarm employment in the state increased by 2.1 percent year-over-year, adding 94,000 jobs. All industry sectors except *Utilities* gained employment from 2021 to 2022.

In April 2023, Missouri's unemployment rate was 2.5 percent, which was below the national rate of 3.4 percent. Missouri's civilian labor force totaled 3,100,000 in April 2023, with a labor force participation rate of 63.2 percent. Labor force participation rates have continued to improve in the state.

Growth has not been even among Missouri's regions. Half the regions experienced growth in employment from 2018 to 2022. The other half were flat or had declining employment. For some regions, this negative growth is part of an ongoing negative trend.

In this annual review of the Missouri economy, changes in gross state product, personal income, civilian labor force, unemployment, and employment are analyzed for the current period and more broadly over the last five to 10 years. Moreover, in this review, special attention is paid to economic regions within Missouri and their diverse workforce and economies.

IN APRIL 2023, MISSOURI'S UNEMPLOYMENT  
RATE WAS 2.5 PERCENT AND BELOW THE  
NATIONAL RATE OF 3.4 PERCENT.

# 2023 ECONOMIC REPORT

# MISSOURI

## ECONOMY OVERVIEW



### GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the broadest measure of economic activity. GDP measures the value of the final goods and services produced in a region (Country or State), without double counting the intermediate goods and services used up to produce them.

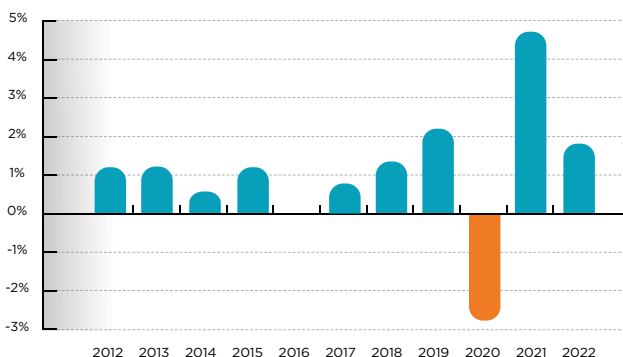
Gross Domestic Product by State (GSP) measures the value-added from industries in that state for a particular period of time. In 2022, Missouri's GDP was \$300.7 billion (in 2012 chained dollars), a 1.7 percent increase from 2021 to 2022. Nationally, inflation-adjusted GDP increased 2.1 percent over the same period. The GDP increase from 2021 to 2022 indicates the continuation of an economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Six out of the eight neighboring states of Missouri experienced an increase in GDP. Iowa and Oklahoma experienced a negative GDP growth from 2021 to 2022. Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Arkansas had greater percent increases than Missouri while Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, and Oklahoma had slower growth. Tennessee had the greatest increase, at 4.3 percent, and Iowa had the slowest growth at -1.5 percent. Compound annual growth rate of GDP for Missouri over a five-year period (2018-2022) was 1.4 percent.

Missouri grew at an annualized rate of 1.02 percent to equal \$29.14 billion in growth over the past 10 years, or a 10.7 percent GDP increase overall.

Several industry sectors experienced a positive GDP growth in the 10-year period from 2012 to 2022. The greatest compound annual growth rate in the past 10 years was in the *Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction* industry with a 4.8 percent compound annual growth rate. Other 10-year top trends include a compound annual growth rate in *Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting* at 4.6 percent; *Professional, scientific, and technical services* at 4.2 percent; *Professional and business services* at 3.7 percent; and *Management of companies and enterprises* at 3.3 percent.

Missouri Real Gross State Product Annual Growth Rate



SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, REAL GDP IN 2012 CHAINED DOLLARS

In the past year, most industry sectors experienced positive growth in GDP. The *Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting* industry had the largest yearly growth, at 18.2 percent. *Natural resources and mining*, at 17.7 percent, had the next largest positive growth. The largest negative yearly growth was in *Construction* at -12.1 percent.

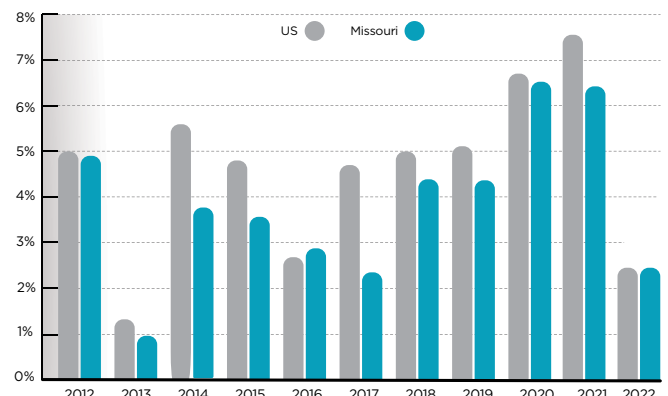
In 2011, Missouri produced \$238.40 billion in private goods and services producing industries whereas in 2022, Missouri produced \$269.24 billion in private goods and services producing industries. In 2022, Service-providing industries contributed 72.1 percent, Goods-producing industries contributed 18.1 percent, and the Government sector contributed 10.5 percent to the Missouri GDP. In the U.S., in 2022, Services-producing industries contributed 71.7 percent, Goods-producing industries made up 17.3 percent, and the Government sector contributed 11.2 percent in the GDP.

In 2022, of the Services-providing industry, the *Real state, rental and leasing sector* contributed 11.0 percent in the state's GDP while *Arts, entertainment, and recreation* contributed 1.1 percent. In the Goods-producing industry, *Manufacturing* contributed 12.6 percent and *Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction* contributed 0.5 percent of Missouri's GDP.

Gross Domestic Product by metropolitan statistical area (MSA) measures the percentage of contribution by MSA to Missouri's total GDP. In 2021, the highest real GDP contribution was from the St. Louis MO-IL Combined MSA (\$156.9 billion), followed by the Kansas City MO-KS MSA (\$130.2 billion), and the Springfield MO MSA (\$19.49 billion). The St. Louis and Kansas City MSAs do cross state boundaries, with only a portion of the GDP attributed to each state.

By county, St. Louis County was the leading contributor to Missouri's GDP in 2021 at \$74.33 billion, followed by Jackson County (\$44.12 billion) and St. Charles County (\$16.68 billion).

Personal Income Annual Growth Rate



SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, PERSONAL INCOME PER CAPITA

# MISSOURI OVERVIEW

## TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

Total personal income includes the wages and salaries of workers and other income received such as dividends, interest, rent, and transfer payments. Incomes are reported before the deduction of taxes.

Transfer payments are monies paid out by the government to individuals through Social Security, disability insurance, Medicare, unemployment insurance compensation, veterans' benefits, education and training assistance programs (such as Pell Grants), and low-income assistance benefits.

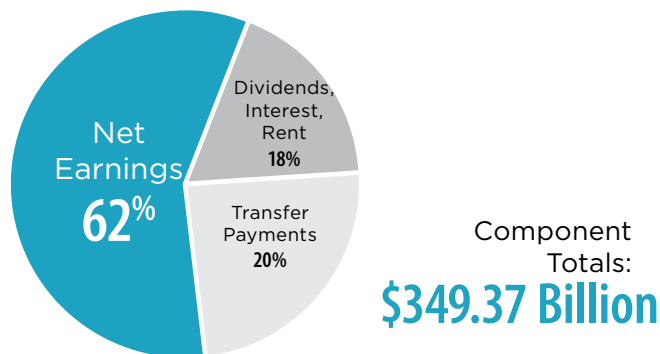
In 2022, Missouri's total personal income was \$349.37 billion, a 2.4 percent increase over 2021. The nation's personal income increased by 2.4 percent to \$21.8 trillion. California led the nation in total personal income with more than \$3.01 trillion. Texas, New York, Florida, and Illinois were also in the top five.

Among surrounding states, Missouri had the sixth largest percent increase in personal income from 2021 to 2022. Total personal income in Tennessee increased by 4.2 percent, followed by Nebraska (3.7%), Iowa (3.3%), Arkansas (3.0%), and Oklahoma (2.9%). Kansas (2.2%), Kentucky (1.7%), and Illinois (1.6%) each had a lower percent personal income increase than Missouri (2.4%) from 2021 to 2022.

Net earnings accounted for 62 percent of Missouri personal income in 2022. Transfer payments accounted for 20 percent and dividends, interest and rent accounted for 18 percent. In the U.S., 63 percent of personal income was accounted for by net earnings, 18 percent by transfer payments, and 19 percent by dividends, interest and rent.

St. Louis County had the highest personal income in the state in 2021 with \$81.3 billion, a 5.1 percent increase from 2020. Jackson County (\$38.07 billion) and St. Charles County (\$25.3 billion) had the next highest personal income, and a 6.3 percent and 7.2 percent increase from 2020 respectively. Camden County had the largest percent increase in personal income, with an 18.3 percent increase over 2020. Johnson County (16.2%) and Pemiscot county (12.9%) also had large percent increases.

Missouri Components of Personal Income



SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, 2022

In 2021, Missouri's total nonfarm earnings were \$2.12 billion. St. Louis County (\$78.3 billion) had the largest nonfarm personal income whereas New Madrid County had the highest farm income (\$92.8 million), followed by Saline County (\$89.6 million) and Stoddard County (\$83.2 million).

Per capita personal income is a rough indicator of the economic well-being of an area's residents. Per capita personal income is total personal income divided by total midyear population. The per capita personal income in Missouri in 2022 was \$56,551, a 2.2 percent increase from 2021. Nationally, per capita income was \$65,423, a 2.0 percent increase over the previous year. In this analysis, per capita income is presented in nominal dollars which means it has not been adjusted for inflation. While the state's per capita income is lower than the national average, so is the cost of living. In 2022, Missouri ranked sixth in lowest cost of living for all states.

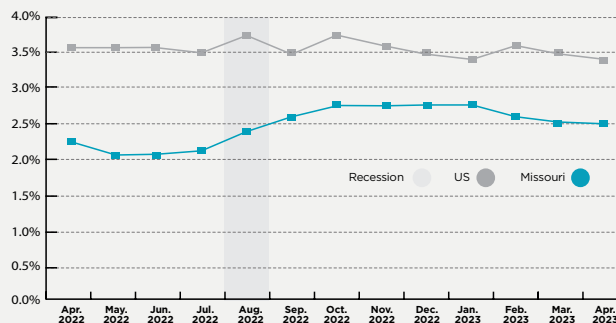
In 2021, St. Louis County had the highest per capita income in the state at \$81,829, followed by Platte County (\$63,771), St. Charles County (\$61,752), and Holt County (\$58,888).

## UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rate measures the number of persons out of work but actively seeking employment relative to the civilian labor force. The seasonally adjusted unemployment data over last 12 months (April 2022 to April 2023) shows somewhat stable trend in the unemployment rates both in the U.S. and in Missouri. In Missouri, the maximum unemployment rate was 2.7 percent and the minimum rate was 2.3 percent over the last 12 months while in the U.S. it was 3.7 percent and 3.4 percent respectively.

Unemployment Rate

Monthly Seasonally Adjusted



SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

During 2022, Missouri's unemployment rate reached the lowest rate in the history of the series since collection began in 1976. The unemployment rate has increased, but remains very low and indicative of a tight labor market.

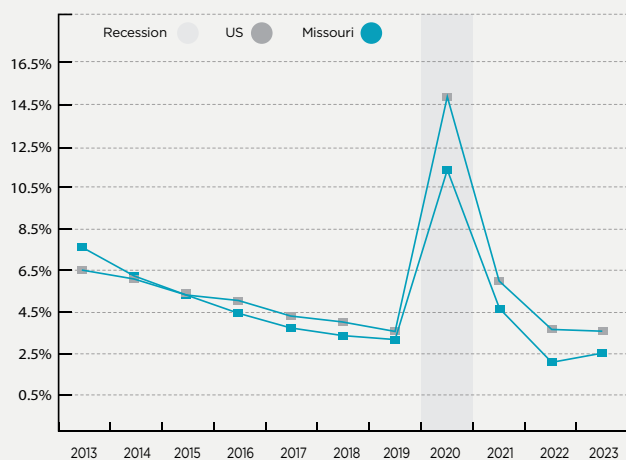
As of April 2023, the nation's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.4 percent, a slight decrease from April 2022 (3.6%)

# MISSOURI OVERVIEW

and a significant decrease from April 2021 (6.1%), reflecting continued recovery from the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Similarly, Missouri's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April 2023 was 2.5 percent, similar to April 2022 (2.3%) and an improvement from April 2021 (4.6%). Missouri's current unemployment rate is continuing at some of the lowest rates in the last decade.

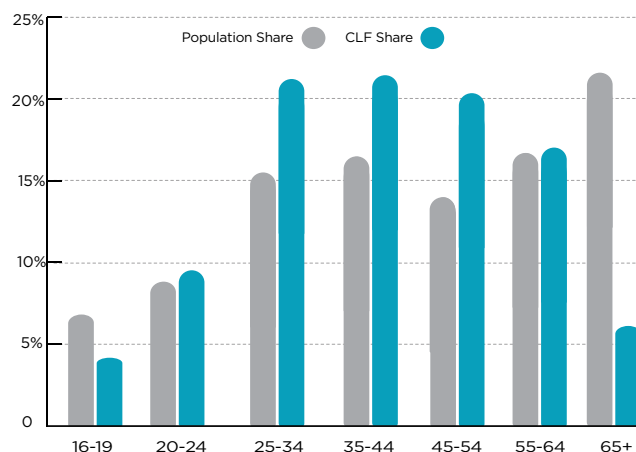
The annual average not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for both the nation and Missouri has been declining since 2013, increasing significantly in 2020, and continuing the downwards trend since then, indicating recovery from the pandemic and renewed economic strength.

**Unemployment Rate**  
Month of April, Year-Over-Year  
Seasonally adjusted Unemployment Rate



SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

## Missouri Population and Labor Force by Age Cohort



SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS, EMPLOYMENT STATUS, 2012-2022; 2023 DATA IS FOR APRIL 2023

The LFPR is the ratio of the civilian labor force to the population. The national LFPR climbed to a peak of 67 percent in the 1990's where it seemed to stabilize. However, since 2001 the LFPR has been falling, staying at 62 percent in 2022 and early 2023.

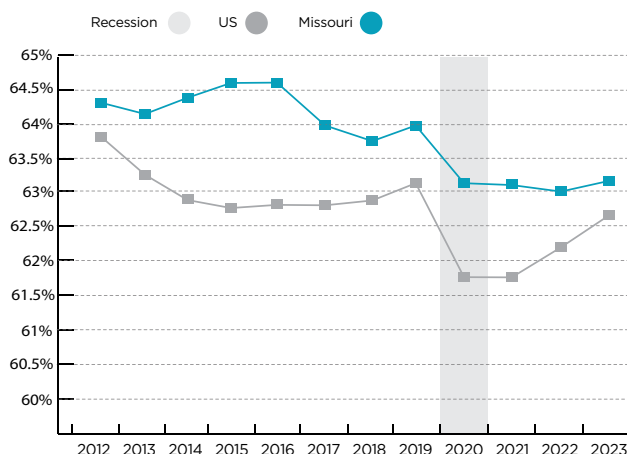
Missouri's LFPR reached the highest peak of close to 70 percent in late 1990's to early 2000's. This rate has been declining steadily since 2002, staying close to 64 percent in 2018, 2019, and 2020. May 2020 was the lowest LFPR for Missouri at 59.6 percent, reflecting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic related shutdowns. Recently, Missouri's LFPR has averaged close to 63 percent, with 62.9 percent in March 2023 and 63.2 percent in April 2023. Missouri's LFPR has been higher than the national average for more than a decade.

## CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

The civilian labor force is defined as the number of non-institutionalized persons—16 years and older—who are either gainfully employed or are unemployed but actively seeking work. The civilian labor force in Missouri totaled over three million in 2021, 2022 and 2023. In April 2023, Missouri's seasonally adjusted labor force totaled 3,100,000 with a labor force participation rate (LFPR) of 63.2 percent. In April 2023, 61.6 percent or 3,022,087 of Missouri's civilian non-institutionalized population were employed and only 2.4 percent of labor force or 77,913 were unemployed. The remaining portion of the population were either not seeking work or have exited the workforce.

According to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), in 2022, the 35 to 54 age cohort comprised 31.4 percent of Missouri's population and 42.7 percent of its civilian labor force. The 65+ age cohort made up 22.2 percent of the population and 6.4 percent of the civilian labor force.

## Civilian Labor Force Participation Rates



SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

# MISSOURI OVERVIEW

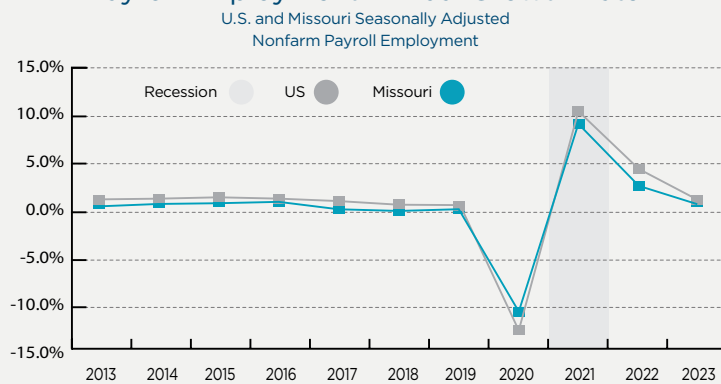
## NONFARM PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT

Nonfarm payroll employment is the estimate of employment in the nonagricultural sector of the economy. Total nonfarm payroll employment declined significantly in 2020 as the economy felt the immediate shock of the pandemic. In April 2020 nonfarm employment in the U.S. was 13.4 percent lower than in April 2019 – a loss of more than 20 million jobs due to the pandemic. By April 2021, employment increased by 10.9 percent, recovering more than 14 million jobs. April 2023 estimates show nonfarm employment increased 2.6 percent compared to April 2022, adding more than 7.06 million jobs.

Statewide, Missouri's nonfarm payroll employment followed a similar trend, with a decrease of 11.8 percent, or 342,000 jobs, from April 2019 to April 2020. In April 2021, employment grew by 9.8 percent year-over-year, with a recovery of 251,000 jobs. Estimates for April 2023 show nonfarm employment in the state increased by 2.1 percent compared to April 2022, adding 60,000 jobs.

Not seasonally adjusted annual data shows that from 2021 to 2022, there was 6.29 million nonfarm payroll employment gains (4.3%) nationally and 84,000 (2.9%) in Missouri.

### Payroll Employment Annual Growth Rate



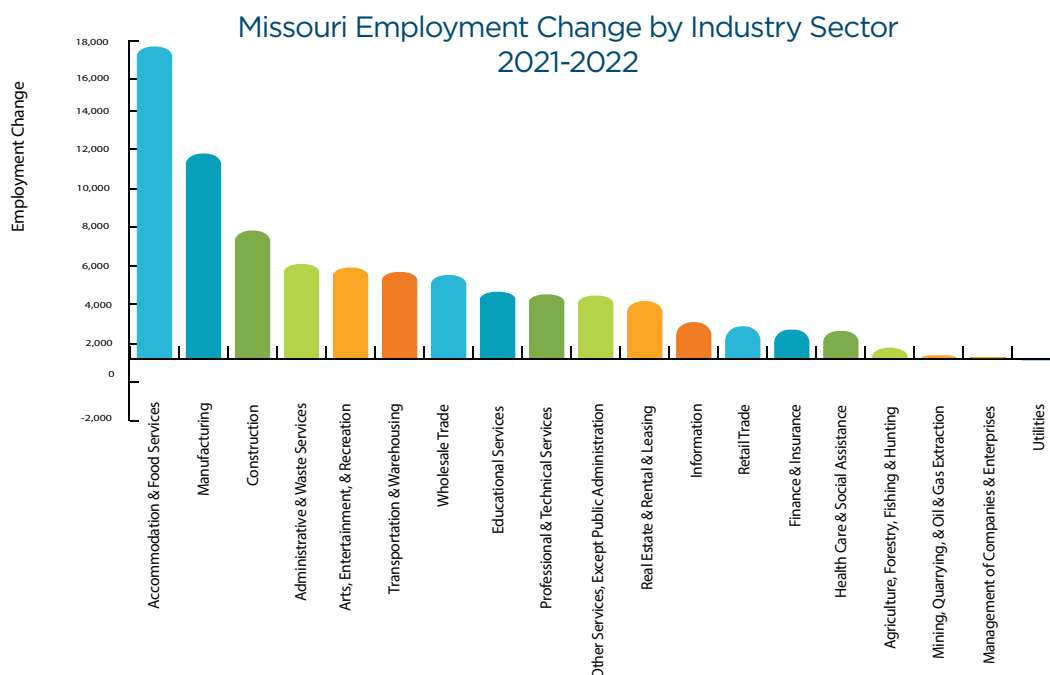
SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, CES, ACCESSED MAY 2013

## EMPLOYMENT CHANGE BY INDUSTRY

Employment change by industry identifies the types of jobs being created within industries in the state. An increase in the employment indicates a greater need within that industry sector, however, some industries behave more cyclically, growing during economic expansion and decreasing in times of economic slowdown or contraction. An increase or decrease in the industry employment not only helps in identifying the types of occupational job changes that are occurring within the industrial sectors but also in highlighting the industries that are expanding or hiring.

The change in employment from 2021 to 2022 shows continued recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. In total, Missouri gained over 80,700 nonfarm employments from 2021 to 2022. All industry sectors except *Utilities* gained employment from 2021 to 2022.

Only the *Utilities* industry sector lost jobs between 2021 and 2022. *Accommodation and Food Services* (+17,128 jobs); *Manufacturing* (+11,421 jobs); and *Construction* (+7,019 jobs) are the top three industry sectors in terms of employment gains.



SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QUARTERLY CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT & WAGES



# MISSOURI OVERVIEW

## LARGEST GROWTH INDUSTRIES

Projected growth by industry helps identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest employment growth in Missouri between 2020 and 2030 will be in the *Restaurants and Other Eating Places; Computer Systems Design and Related Services; Employment Services; General Medical and Surgical Hospitals; and Individual and Family Services* industries.

MISSOURI INDUSTRIES WITH THE LARGEST PROJECTED GROWTH 2020-2030				
INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT		CHANGE 2020-2030	
	2020 EST.	2030 PROJ.	NUMERIC	PERCENT
Restaurants & Other Eating Places	180,341	218,078	37,737	20.9%
Computer Systems Design & Related Services	45,201	55,925	10,724	23.7%
Employment Services	45,284	55,998	10,714	23.7%
General Medical & Surgical Hospitals	145,204	154,656	9,452	6.5%
Individual & Family Services	66,257	75,579	9,322	14.1%
Traveler Accommodation	23,334	30,628	7,294	31.3%
Elementary & Secondary Schools	145,675	152,403	6,728	4.6%
Colleges, Universities, & Professional Schools	58,485	64,408	5,923	10.1%
Warehousing & Storage	20,668	26,422	5,754	27.8%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	67,646	73,209	5,563	8.2%

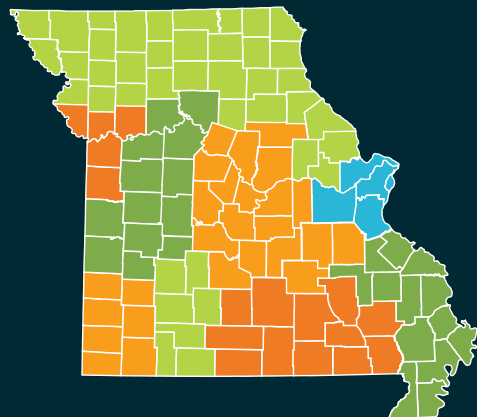
SOURCE: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

## ONLINE JOB POSTINGS

Job postings are an indicator of demand and opportunities in an area, and can assist individuals seeking job opportunities in current in-demand occupations. According to information based on online job posting data collected and aggregated by Lightcast™, a variety of occupations have had a high number of job postings in the state during the last year. *Registered Nurses* had the most online job postings in any category during the last year.

OCCUPATION TITLE	ONLINE JOB POSTINGS
NOW OCCUPATIONS	
Retail Salespersons	23,520
Customer Service Representatives	16,660
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	15,580
Fast Food & Counter Workers	15,210
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	13,050
NEXT OCCUPATIONS	
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing, Except Technical & Scientific Products	20,590
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	18,830
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	16,780
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	13,560
Medical Dosimetrists, Medical Records Specialists, & Health Technologists & Techs	12,730
LATER OCCUPATIONS	
Registered Nurses	60,640
Software Developers & Software Quality Assurance Analysts & Testers	18,890
Personal Service Managers, All Other; Entertainment & Recreation Managers	14,000
Computer Occupations, All Other	12,920
Medical & Health Services Managers	11,920

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST™, ONLINE JOB ADS FROM MAY 1, 2022 TO APRIL 30, 2023



# 2023 ECONOMIC REPORT

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Missouri has a diverse economy that varies by geography, natural resources, and population. The following section analyzes the various regional economies that contribute to the Missouri's economy. The state is divided into 9 regions. These regions were developed using the Workforce Development Areas created by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and continued with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014. In 2023, the Northeast and Northwest regions were merged to make a greater "North" region. For a list of the economic regions used in this analysis and the counties that make up those regions, see the Appendix.

The Missouri Regional Economic Profiles graph provides information on the total employment (size of the bubble), employment growth percentage (horizontal axis), and average annual wage (vertical axis) within each region. When compared 2018 to 2022, several regions still show a negative employment growth. This negative growth is partly due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, although the economy is showing continued recovery from it in 2022, as shown by the positive employment growth for all regions when compared 2021 to 2022. From 2018 to 2022, Ozark region recorded the largest positive employment growth (+3.5%) while North region showed the highest negative employment growth (-2.4%). From 2021 to 2022, all regions recorded positive employment growth with Ozark region leading at 3.3 percent growth and North region experiencing the lowest growth rate at 1.1 percent. Statewide, the employment growth was 0.9 percent from 2018 to 2022 and 2.9 percent from 2021 to 2022.

The statewide average wage in 2022 was \$59,225. The St. Louis and Kansas City regions had wages higher than the state average, with average wages of \$67,215 and \$63,264, respectively. The St. Louis Region is the largest, in terms of employment, with over one million employees in 2022. The Kansas City and Central regions had the next highest employment with over 553,385 and over 284,800 employees, respectively.

### Missouri Regional Economic Profiles 2022

Missouri	2,820,841
Central	284,844
Kansas City	553,385
North	169,915
Ozark	247,504
South Central	59,807
Southeast	137,765
Southwest	112,657
St. Louis	1,053,833
West Central	84,129

### Missouri Regional Economic Profiles, 2022



SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QUARTERLY CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES (QCEW), 2022

# 2023 ECONOMIC REPORT

# CENTRAL

## REGION



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The Central Region is comprised of 19 counties in the center of Missouri. This region is home to several cities including Columbia, Mexico, Rolla, Camdenton, Lebanon, and the state capital, Jefferson City.

The Central Region workforce has more than 318,000 employees, making up 10.7 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2022, about 51.7 percent of the workforce was male and 48.3 percent was female, which roughly matches the Missouri average of 51.1 percent males and 48.9 percent female workers in the workforce. The regional average unemployment rate in 2022 was 2.4 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the Central Region, a trend continuing throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2022, 22.3 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 19 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 11.8 percent of the workforce was non-white and 3.7 percent was Hispanic or Latino. This compares to the state averages of 18.1 percent non-white and 4.9 percent Hispanic or Latino.

In the Central Region, 6.0 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7.1 percent and the U.S. was at 23.7 percent.

The Central Region has a higher percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state and nation. For the Central Region, 13.8 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12.3 percent in Missouri and 10.3 percent in the U.S.

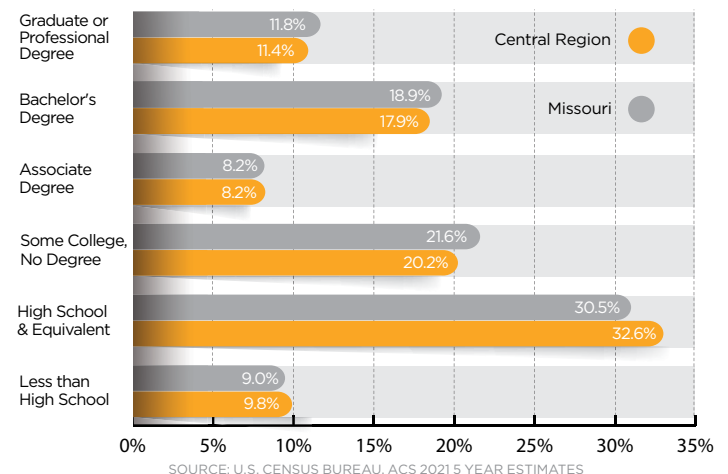
## Workforce Demographics

	Central MO	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2022	318,099	2,984,340	158,291,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2022	2.4%	2.5%	3.6%
Male	51.7%	51.1%	51.5%
Female	48.3%	48.9%	48.5%
Non-White	11.8%	18.1%	24.2%
Hispanic or Latino	3.7%	4.9%	17.4%
Ages 55 or Older	22.3%	22.5%	22.8%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	13.8%	12.3%	10.3%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	15.1%	12.5%	11.7%
Language other than English(Ages 18-64)	6.0%	7.1%	23.7%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	37.5%	38.9%	42.4%
Veterans (Age 18-64)	5.6%	4.9%	4.5%

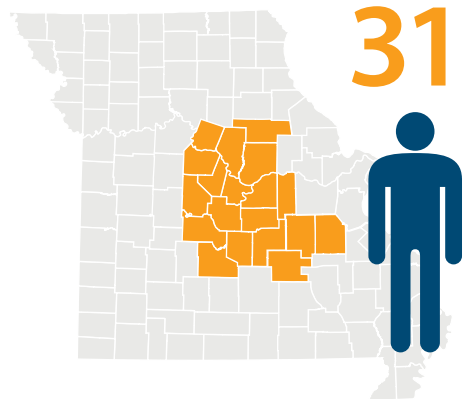
SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2021-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2022

Educational attainment rates for the Central Region are slightly behind those of the state in regards to bachelor's or advanced degrees. About thirty-eight percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 39 percent for the state, and about 42 percent for the nation. About 9.8 percent of the region's population of age 25 and older has less than high school education.

## Educational Attainment



**318,000**  
**EMPLOYEES**  
**10.7%**  
**OF MISSOURI'S**  
**EMPLOYMENT**

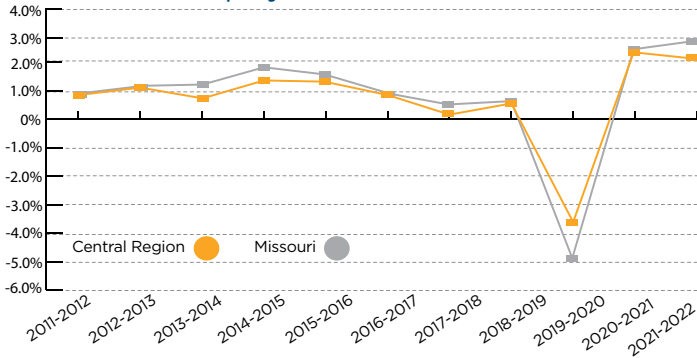


# CENTRAL REGION

## INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The Central Region averaged more than 284,800 jobs in 2022. The region gained 2.1 percent more employment from 2021 to 2022. Missouri employment increased by 2.9 percent in 2022. From 2018 to 2022, the Central Region averaged 0.28 percent compound annual growth for an overall gain of 1.4 percent. During that same period (2018-2022) Missouri's compound annual employment gain was 0.2 percent for an overall gain of 0.9 percent.

Central Employment Annual Growth Rate



SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

*Health Care and Social Assistance* is the largest industry sector in the Central Region, with over 42,900 jobs in 2022, even though the industry added merely 42 jobs at a compound annual growth rate of 0.02 percent since 2018. *The Retail Trade* industry continues to be one of the largest employing industries in the region with over 34,800 jobs in 2022, a gain of over 1,000 jobs since 2018.

The *Finance and Insurance* industry added the most jobs, with a gain of over 2,150 jobs since 2018. *Educational Services* is the third largest industry with over 29,600 jobs in 2022, an increase of over 1,080 jobs since 2018. *Accommodation and Food Services* and *Manufacturing* are among the largest industries in the region. *Accommodation and Food Services* gained some jobs at a compound annual rate of 0.2 percent from 2018 to 2022 and in the same period *Manufacturing* added 1,500 jobs at a rate of 1.1 percent. *Public Administration* (-1,328) and *Wholesale Trade* (-142) are the industry sectors that lost jobs compared to 2018 employment levels.

Central Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment 2018	Employment 2022	Net Change	2018-2022 Empl. CAGR	2021 Annual Wages
Health Care & Social Assist.	42,893	42,935	42	0.02%	\$55,164
Retail Trade	33,855	34,858	1,003	0.6%	\$35,400
Educational Services	28,605	29,692	1,087	0.7%	\$53,196
Accommodation & Food Servs.	29,069	29,341	272	0.2%	\$22,308
Manufacturing	27,302	28,802	1,500	1.1%	\$53,064
Public Administration	26,697	25,369	-1,328	-1.0%	\$45,540
Construction	13,244	15,151	1,907	2.7%	\$54,252
Admin.&Sup. & Waste	12,146	12,811	665	1.1%	\$35,352
Mngmt & Remediation Servs.					
Finance & Insurance	10,400	12,553	2,153	3.8%	\$81,684
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	8,486	10,013	1,527	3.4%	\$62,928
Transportation & Warehousing	7,199	8,619	1,420	3.7%	\$41,484
Wholesale Trade	8,442	8,300	-142	-0.3%	\$66,732

SOURCE: LEHD QWI, 2018-2022 QUARTER 3 DATA

## LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries with higher than 1.0 LQ indicate a concentration.

The Central Region has higher concentrations in *Gasoline Stations and Fuel Dealers*; *Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book Retailers*; *Credit Intermediation and Related Activities*; and *General Merchandise Retailers*.



HIGHEST 2022  
LQ 2.1  
GASOLINE STATIONS

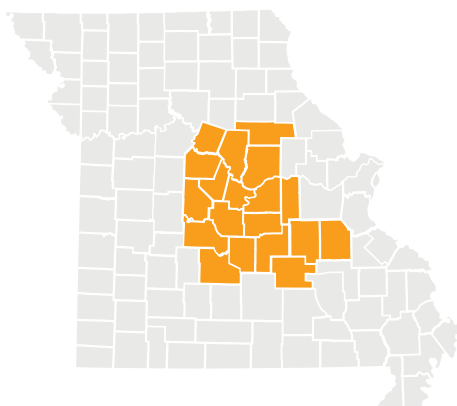
2022 Central Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Gasoline Stations & Fuel Dealers	4,029	2.1
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book Retailers	5,151	1.8
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	8,572	1.7
General Merchandise Retailers	8,159	1.4
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	5,066	1.3
Building Material Supplies Dealers	3,571	1.3
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,036	1.3
Accommodation	4,064	1.2
Transit & Ground Passenger Transport.	934	1.2
Printing & Related Support Activities	816	1.1
Food Services & Drinking Places	24,700	1.1
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	861	1.1
Animal Production & Aquaculture	540	1.1
Machinery Manufacturing	2,239	1.1
Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction	2,138	1.1

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

# CENTRAL REGION

Projected growth in industries helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest industry growth in the Central Region between 2020-2030 will be in *Educational Services; Ambulatory Health Care Services; Administrative and Support Services; Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services; Social Assistance; and Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* industries.



## Central Region Largest Growth Industries 2020-2030

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2020 Estimated	2030 Projected	2020-2030 Numeric	2020-2030 Percent
Educational Services	30,123	32,845	2,722	9.0%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	10,200	11,917	1,717	16.8%
Administrative & Support Services	8,744	10,306	1,562	17.9%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	8,355	9,869	1,514	18.1%
Social Assistance	7,246	8,215	969	13.4%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	3,373	4,328	955	28.3%
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	8,089	8,986	897	11.1%
Specialty Trade Contractors	7,122	7,831	709	10.0%
Hospitals	16,261	16,899	638	3.9%
Management of Companies & Enterprises	4,291	4,727	436	10.2%

SOURCE: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

## OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimates labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

**Now** jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. **Now** occupations with the most projected openings are *Cashiers; Fast Food and Counter Workers; and Waiters and Waitresses. Ushers, Lobby Attendants, and Ticket Takers; Bartenders; and Hosts and Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge, and Coffee Shop* are projected to be the fastest growing **Now** occupations over the next decade.

**Next** jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Cooks; Nursing Assistants; and Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers* are projected to have the most openings for the **Next** category of occupations. *Cooks; Fitness Trainers and Aerobics Instructors; and Supervisors of Food Prep and Serving Workers* are projected to be the fastest growing **Next** occupations.

**Later** jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For **Later** occupations, *General and Operations Managers; Registered Nurses; and Secondary School Teachers* are projected to have the most openings. *Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists; Medical and Health Services Managers; and Software Developers and Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers* are the fastest growing **Later** occupations.

## Central Region Fastest Growing Occupations




NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH ANNUAL TOTAL OPENINGS OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030



# CENTRAL REGION

## Central Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings




Occupation	2020 Estimated Employment	2030 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
 NOW							
Cashiers	9,384	8,909	-48	778	876	1,606	\$22,537
Fast Food & Counter Workers	5,864	6,788	92	613	669	1,374	\$21,238
Retail Salespersons	8,301	8,342	4	465	687	1,156	\$24,245
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	6,980	8,465	148	494	437	1,079	\$24,417
Waiters & Waitresses	4,096	4,946	85	332	540	957	\$20,388
 NEXT							
Cooks, Restaurant	3,647	5,495	185	269	391	845	\$23,969
Nursing Assistants	3,509	3,726	22	232	205	459	\$26,769
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	3,361	3,537	18	141	234	393	\$41,939
Maintenance & Repair Workers	3,601	3,840	24	131	217	372	\$34,631
Supervisors of Food Prep & Serving Workers	1,965	2,404	44	98	223	365	\$30,192
 LATER							
General & Operations Managers	5,304	5,965	66	112	349	527	\$66,036
Registered Nurses	6,956	7,327	37	190	180	407	\$61,588
Secondary School Teachers	3,725	4,051	33	103	158	294	\$48,057
Teaching Assistants, Postsecondary	2,636	2,824	19	122	128	269	\$27,884
Elementary School Teachers	2,721	2,950	23	87	114	224	\$46,685

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

## ONLINE JOB POSTINGS

Job postings are an indicator of demand and opportunities in an area, and can assist individuals seeking job opportunities in current in-demand occupations. According to information based on online job posting data collected and aggregated from May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023 by Lightcast™ for the Central Region, jobs like *Registered Nurses; Retail Salespersons; and First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers* topped the number of online job postings in the region.

### Central Region Top Five Online Job Postings in Now-Next-Later Classification

Occupation Title	Online Job Postings
 NOW	
Retail Salespersons	2,400
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	1,510
Fast Food & Counter Workers	1,400
Customer Service Representatives	1,390
Secretaries & Administrative Assistants	1,090
 NEXT	
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	1,840
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing	1,650
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	1,610
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	1,430
Food Service Managers	1,150
 LATER	
Registered Nurses	6,270
Software Developers	1,610
Postsecondary Teachers	1,240
Managers, All Other	1,220
Computer Occupations, All Other	1,090

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST™, ONLINE JOB ADS FROM MAY 1, 2022 - APRIL 30, 2023

This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report. This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.

# 2023 ECONOMIC REPORT KANSAS CITY REGION



DEPARTMENT OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION &  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Kansas City Region is comprised of five counties in the west central part of Missouri. The region is home to several cities including Kansas City and Independence.

The Kansas City Region workforce has more than 608,700 employees, making up 20.4 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2022, 52.7 percent of the workforce was male and 47.3 percent was female. The regional average unemployment rate in 2022 was 2.7 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the Kansas City Region, a trend continuing throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2022, 22.3 percent of the workforce in the region was age 55 or older, up from 19 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 20.9 percent of the workforce was non-white and 7.9 percent was Hispanic or Latino. This compares to the state averages of 18.1 percent non-white and 4.9 percent Hispanic or Latino.

In the Kansas City Region, 8.6 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7.1 percent and the U.S. was at 23.7 percent.

The Kansas City Region has a lower percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state. For the region, 10.7 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12.3 percent in Missouri and 10.3 percent in the U.S.

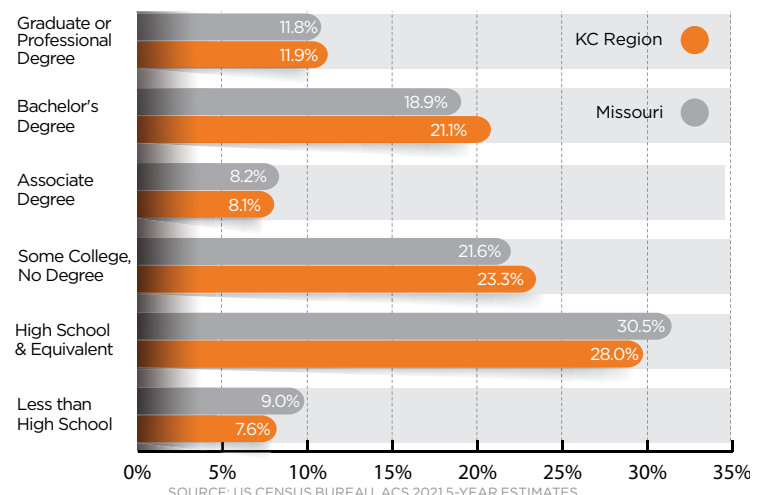
## Workforce Demographics

	K.C. Region	Missouri	United States
Average Monthly Employment in 2022	608,725	2,984,340	158,291,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2022	2.7%	2.5%	3.6%
Male	52.7%	51.1%	51.5%
Female	47.3%	48.9%	48.5%
Non-White	20.9%	18.1%	24.2%
Hispanic or Latino	7.9%	4.9%	17.4%
Ages 55 and Older	22.3%	22.5%	22.8%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	10.7%	12.3%	10.3%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	10.1%	12.5%	11.7%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	8.6%	7.1%	23.7%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	41.1%	38.9%	42.4%
Veterans (Age 18-64)	5.0%	4.9%	4.5%

SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2021-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2022

Educational attainment rates for the Kansas City Region are slightly higher than the state average for those with bachelor's or advanced degrees. Forty-one percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 39 percent for the state, and about 42 percent for the nation. About 7.6 percent of the region's population of age 25 and older has less than high school education.

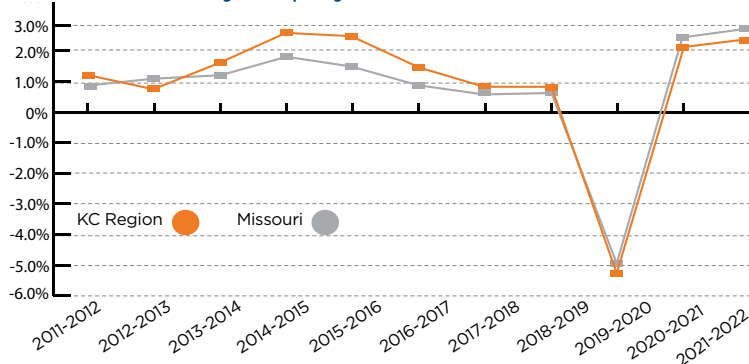
## Educational Attainment



# KANSAS CITY REGION

The Kansas City Region averaged over 553,300 jobs in 2022. The region gained 12,756 jobs, an increase of 2.4 percent from 2021 to 2022. Missouri employment increased by 2.9 percent in 2022, continuing recovery from the pandemic impacts. From 2018 to 2022, the Kansas City Region employment was flat, showing no growth in the five-year period. During that same period (2018-2022) Missouri's compound annual employment gain was 0.2 percent for an overall gain of 0.9 percent.

Kansas City Employment Annual Growth Rate



SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

The *Health Care and Social Assistance* industry continues to have the highest employment in the Kansas City region, with close to 82,000 jobs in 2022, even though it has lost over 1,800 jobs from 2018 to 2022, a decrease of 0.4 percent compounded annually for the region. *Retail Trade* is the second largest industry and gained over 760 jobs at a compound annual growth rate of 0.2 percent from 2018 to 2022.

The *Construction* industry added the most jobs, with a gain of over 4,164 jobs since 2018, followed by *Manufacturing* (3,729 jobs). *Accommodation and Food Services* is still the third largest industry with over 55,600 jobs in 2022 despite losing over 1,260 jobs since 2018. *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services* and *Manufacturing* are among the largest industries in the region. *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services* lost jobs at a compound annual rate of -0.3 percent from 2018 to 2022, however, in the same period *Manufacturing* added over 3,700 jobs at a rate of 1.6 percent. *Health Care and Social Assistance*; *Accommodation and Food Services*; *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*; and *Educational Services* are the industry sectors that lost jobs compared to 2018 employment levels.

Kansas City Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment 2018	Employment 2022	Net Change	2018-2022 Empl. CAGR	2021 Annual Wages
Health Care & Social Assistance	83,814	81,990	-1,824	-0.4%	\$59,328
Retail Trade	63,616	64,384	768	0.2%	\$37,968
Accommodation & Food Services	56,878	55,609	-1,269	-0.5%	\$25,392
Prof. Scientific, & Technical Services	54,322	53,628	-694	-0.3%	\$98,232
Manufacturing	44,864	48,593	3,729	1.6%	\$63,912
Educational Services	36,998	36,412	-586	-0.3%	\$47,328
Admin. & Supp. & Waste Mngmnt & Remediation Services	34,045	35,512	1,467	0.8%	\$44,412
Construction	29,964	34,128	4,164	2.6%	\$73,668
Finance & Insurance	28,225	29,319	1,094	0.8%	\$102,708
Transportation & Warehousing	23,870	27,305	3,435	2.7%	\$50,436
Wholesale Trade	24,937	25,211	274	0.2%	\$86,148
Other Services (except Public Administration)	16,833	17,444	611	0.7%	\$45,036

SOURCE: LEHD QWI, 2018-2022 ANNUAL AVERAGES

## LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries with higher than 1.0 LQ indicate a concentration.

The Kansas City Region has higher concentrations in *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing*; *Performing Arts, Spectator Sports, and Related Industries*; *Paper Manufacturing*; and *Support Activities for Transportation*.

HIGHEST 2022  
LQ 1.9

TRANSPORTATION  
EQUIPMENT  
MANUFACTURING

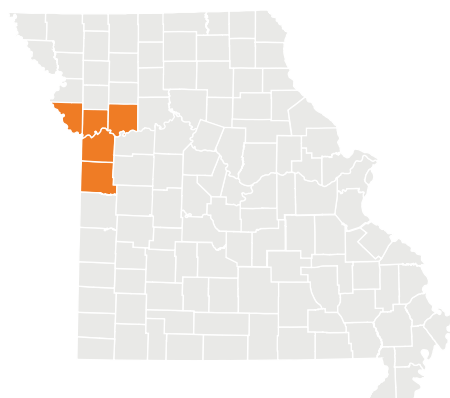
2022 Kansas City Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	12,080	1.9
Performing Arts & Related Industries	3,010	1.6
Paper Manufacturing	2,144	1.6
Support Activities for Transportation	4,570	1.6
Museums, Historical Sites, & Similar Institutions	888	1.5
Petroleum & Coal Products Manufacturing	551	1.4
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5,671	1.4
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	12,742	1.4
Comput. Infrastructure Providers & Related Services	2,363	1.4
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	46,788	1.2
Truck Transportation	6,811	1.2
Printing & Related Support Activities	1,617	1.2
Building Material & Supplies Dealers	6,095	1.2
Food Services and Drinking Places	48,472	1.1
Specialty Trade Contractors	20,373	1.1

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

# KANSAS CITY REGION

Projected growth in industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest industry growth in the Kansas City Region between 2020-2030 will be in *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services; Hospitals; Warehousing and Storage; Specialty Trade Contractors; and Ambulatory Health Care Services* industries.



## Kansas City Region Largest Growth Industries 2020-2030

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2020 Estimated	2030 Projected	2020-2030 Numeric	Percent
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	48,628	58,000	9,372	19.3%
Hospitals	30,043	33,144	3,101	10.3%
Warehousing & Storage	4,024	5,920	1,896	47.1%
Specialty Trade Contractors	18,414	20,237	1,823	9.9%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	23,517	25,331	1,814	7.7%
Personal & Laundry Services	4,813	6,136	1,323	27.5%
Perform. Arts, Spectator Sports, & Related Indust.	2,024	3,086	1,062	52.5%
Support Activities for Transportation	3,711	4,739	1,028	27.7%
Real Estate	6,043	6,718	675	11.2%
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	7,973	8,456	483	6.1%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

## OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimates labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations. .

**Now** jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. **Now** occupations with the most projected openings include *Waiters and Waitresses; Fast Food and Counter Workers; and Cashiers. Ushers, Lobby Attendants, and Ticket Takers; Nonfarm Animal Caretakers; and Locker Room, Coatroom, and Dressing Room Attendants* are projected to be the fastest growing **Now** occupations over the next decade.

**Next** jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Cooks; Assemblers and Fabricators; and Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers* are projected to have the most openings for the **Next** category of occupations. *Cooks; Fitness Trainers and Aerobics Instructors; and Physical Therapist Assistants* are the fastest growing **Next** occupations.

**Later** jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For **Later** occupations, *General and Operations Managers; Software Developers and Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers; and Registered Nurses* are projected to have the most openings. *Nurse Practitioners; Medical and Health Services Managers; and Coaches and Scouts* are the fastest growing **Later** occupations.

## Kansas City Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH ANNUAL TOTAL OPENINGS OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

# KANSAS CITY REGION

## Kansas City Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2020 Estimated Employment	2030 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
<b>NOW</b>							
Waiters & Waitresses	10,872	13,448	258	893	1,452	2,603	\$20,372
Fast Food & Counter Workers	10,704	12,750	205	1,137	1,240	2,582	\$27,426
Cashiers	15,028	13,787	-124	1,226	1,379	2,481	\$24,233
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	11,206	14,600	339	826	731	1,896	\$23,712
Stockers & Order Fillers	10,976	11,923	95	652	1,117	1,864	\$28,982
<b>NEXT</b>							
Cooks, Restaurant	5,170	7,873	270	384	558	1,212	\$30,564
Miscellaneous Assemblers & Fabricators	9,569	10,372	80	380	712	1,172	\$43,902
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	8,045	8,575	53	340	564	957	\$45,674
Nursing Assistants	5,344	5,766	42	356	314	712	\$28,282
First-Line Supv. of Food Prep. & Serving Workers	3,386	4,231	84	170	388	642	\$38,013
<b>LATER</b>							
General & Operations Managers	12,339	13,705	137	260	807	1,204	\$89,476
Software Develop. & Analysts & Testers	8,871	11,169	230	232	491	953	\$93,713
Registered Nurses	13,984	15,173	119	389	367	875	\$70,319
Accountants & Auditors	6,924	7,544	62	202	428	692	\$66,947
Proj. Manag. Specialists & Business Op. Specialists	6,886	7,371	48	165	350	563	\$82,540

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2020-2030

## ONLINE JOB POSTINGS

Job postings are an indicator of demand and opportunities in an area, and can assist individuals seeking job opportunities in current in-demand occupations. According to information based on online job posting data collected and aggregated by Lightcast™ for the Kansas City Region, jobs like *Registered Nurses*; *Sales Representatives Wholesale and Manufacturing*; and *Retail Salespersons* had a high number of job postings in the region during the last year.

### Kansas City Region Top Five Online Job Postings in Now-Next-Later Classification

Occupation Title	Online Job Postings
<b>NOW</b>	
Retail Salespersons	5,690
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	5,530
Customer Service Representatives	4,620
Fast Food & Counter Workers	4,310
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	3,590
<b>NEXT</b>	
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing	6,120
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	5,030
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	4,950
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	4,420
Food Service Managers	3,930
<b>LATER</b>	
Registered Nurses	15,510
Managers, All Other	4,390
Software Developers	4,320
Computer Occupations, All Other	3,400
Medical and Health Services Managers	3,290

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST™, ONLINE JOB ADS, MAY 1, 2022 - APRIL 30, 2023

This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report. This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.



# 2023 ECONOMIC REPORT

# NORTH

# REGION



DEPARTMENT OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION &  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

In 2023, the Northeast and the Northwest regions were combined to make the “North” region. The Northeast Region was comprised of 16 counties in northeastern Missouri while Northwest Region was comprised of 18 counties in the northwest corner of Missouri. The new “North” region, thus, is comprised of 34 counties. This region is home to several cities including Kirksville, Hannibal, Moberly, Warrenton, St. Joseph, Chillicothe, Trenton, and Maryville.

The North Region workforce has around 242,400 employees, making up 8.1 percent of Missouri’s employment. In 2022, 47.7 percent of the workforce was female and 52.3 percent was male. The regional average unemployment rate in 2022 was 2.5 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the North Region, a trend continuing throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2022, 24.6 percent of the workforce in the region was age 55 or older, up from 21 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 9.2 percent of the workforce was non-white and 4.5 percent was Hispanic or Latino. This compares to the state averages of 18.1 percent non-white and 4.9 percent Hispanic or Latino.

In the North Region, 4.0 percent of the region’s population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7.1 percent and the U.S. was at 23.7 percent.

The North Region has a higher percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state and the nation. For the region,

## Workforce Demographics

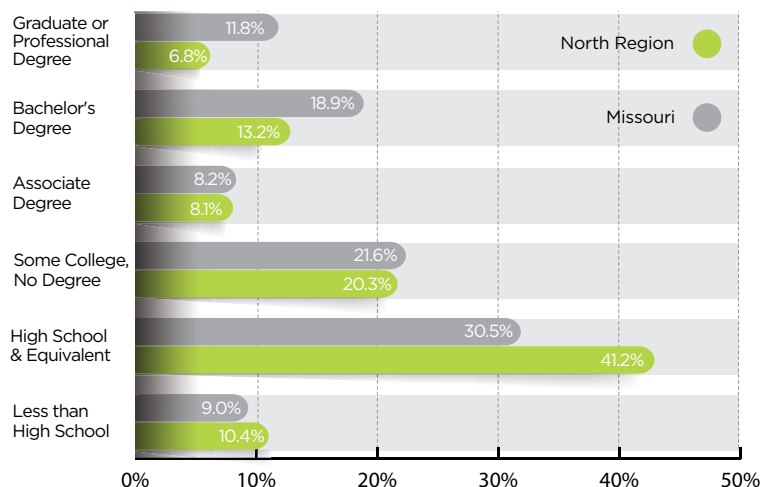
	North	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2022	242,421	2,984,340	158,291,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2022	2.5%	2.5%	3.6%
Male	52.3%	51.1%	51.5%
Female	47.7%	48.9%	48.5%
Non-White	9.2%	18.1%	24.2%
Hispanic or Latino	4.5%	4.9%	17.4%
Ages 55 and Older	24.6%	22.5%	22.8%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	13.0%	12.3%	10.3%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	14.0%	12.5%	11.7%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	4.0%	7.1%	23.7%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	28.1%	38.9%	42.4%
Veterans (Age 18-64)	4.9%	4.9%	4.5%

SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2021-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2022

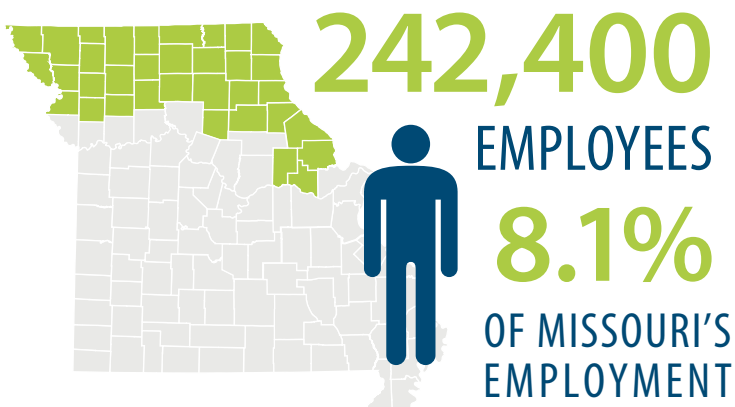
13.0 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12.3 percent in Missouri and 10.3 percent in the U.S.

Educational attainment rates for the North Region are lower than those of the state for bachelor’s or advanced degrees. Twenty-eight percent of the region’s population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor’s, or advanced degree compared to 39 percent for the state, and about 42 percent for the nation. About 10.4 percent of the region’s population of age 25 and older has less than high school education.

## Educational Attainment



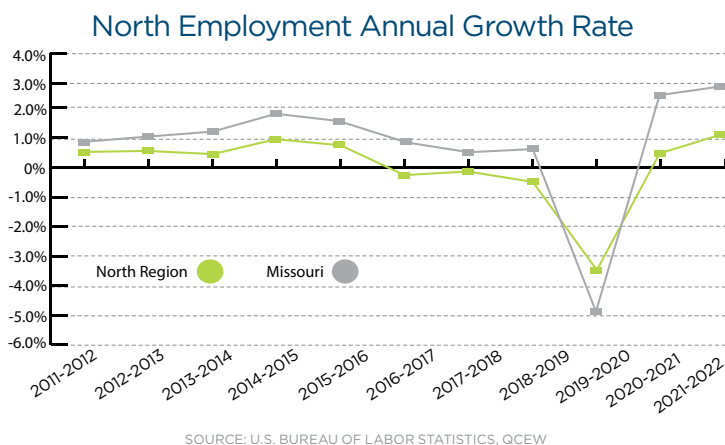
SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2021 5 YEAR ESTIMATES



# NORTH REGION

## INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The North Region averaged over 169,900 jobs in 2022. The region gained 1,893 jobs, an increase of 1.1 percent from 2021 to 2022. From 2018 to 2022, the North Region averaged -0.5 percent compound annual growth for an overall decrease of 2.4 percent. During that same period (2018-2022) Missouri's compound annual employment gain was 0.2 percent for an overall gain of 0.9 percent.



*Manufacturing* and *Health Care and Social Assistance* are the largest industries in the region with an employment of 28,000 and 26,700 in 2022. *Retail Trade* and *Educational Services* are the next largest industries in the region, with an employment of over 20,800 and 15,500 respectively in 2022.

The top employing industry in 2022 had a compound annual growth rate of 0.11 percent from 2018 to 2022, with a gain of 147 jobs in that period. *The Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services* and *Construction* industries gained employment from 2018 to 2022, with compound annual growth rates of 2.4 and 1.2 percent, respectively.

Seven industry sectors lost jobs compared to 2018 employment levels.

### North Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment 2018	Employment 2022	Net Change	2018-2022 Empl. CAGR	2021 Annual Wages
Manufacturing	27,941	28,088	147	0.11%	\$58,320
Health Care & Social Assistance	27,699	26,796	-903	-0.7%	\$46,656
Retail Trade	20,762	20,810	48	0.0%	\$33,240
Educational Services	16,762	15,533	-1,229	-1.5%	\$39,132
Accommodation & Food Services	13,236	12,604	-632	-1.0%	\$18,792
Construction	9,063	9,600	537	1.2%	\$57,660
Public Administration	10,369	8,570	-1,799	-3.7%	\$37,776
Wholesale Trade	6,745	6,845	100	0.3%	\$60,564
Administrative & Support & Waste Management & Remediation Services	8,881	6,523	-2,358	-6.0%	\$36,132
Transportation and Warehousing	5,876	5,864	-12	0.0%	\$47,040
Finance & Insurance	5,526	5,395	-131	-0.5%	\$58,320
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	4,368	4,910	542	2.4%	\$63,216

SOURCE: LEHD QWI, 2018-2022 QUARTER 3 DATA

## LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries with higher than 1.0 LQ indicate a concentration.

The North Region has higher concentrations in *Gasoline Stations and Fuel Dealers*; *Food Manufacturing*; and *Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing*.

 **HIGHEST 2022 LQ 3.2**  
**GASOLINE STATIONS**

### 2022 North Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Gasoline Stations & Fuel Dealers	3,734	3.2
Food Manufacturing	4,904	2.6
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	3,566	2.2
Chemical Manufacturing	1,646	1.6
Crop Production	979	1.6
General Merchandise Retailers	5,651	1.6
Building Material & Supplies Dealers	2,510	1.6
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	698	1.5
Animal Production & Aquaculture	438	1.5
Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction	1,566	1.3
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	4,379	1.3
Truck Transportation	2,180	1.2
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	2,601	1.1
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	2,792	1.1
Repair & Maintenance	1,663	1.1

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

# NORTH REGION

## ONLINE JOB POSTINGS

Job postings are an indicator of demand and opportunities in an area, and can assist individuals seeking job opportunities in current in-demand occupations. According to information based on online job posting data collected and aggregated by Lightcast™ for the North Region, jobs like *Registered Nurses*; *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers*; and *Retail Salespersons* had a high number of job postings in the region during the last year.

North Region Top Five Online Job Postings in Now-Next-Later Classification

Occupation Title	Online Job Postings
NOW	
Retail Salespersons	1,132
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	933
Fast Food & Counter Workers	711
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	696
Customer Service Representatives	602
NEXT	
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	1,348
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	962
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	918
Food Service Managers	718
Merchandise Displayers & Window Trimmers	704
LATER	
Registered Nurses	2,629
Medical & Health Services Managers	430
Postsecondary Teachers	353
Physical Therapists	284
General & Operations Managers	272

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST™, ONLINE JOB ADS FROM MAY 1, 2022 - APRIL 30, 2023

*MERIC produces long-term industry and occupation projections every two years. The latest data was published in 2022. The Northeast and Northwest regions were merged in 2023 into a combined “North” region, therefore projections data for this new region is not available for this years’ annual economic report. New projections data for 2022-2032 will be published on the MERIC website in the summer of 2024 and will include data for the North Region.*

This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report. This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.

# 2023 ECONOMIC REPORT

# OZARK

## REGION



DEPARTMENT OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION &  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Ozark Region is comprised of seven counties in the southwest quadrant of Missouri. This region is home to several cities including Springfield, Branson, Nixa, and Marshfield.

The Ozark Region workforce has more than 274,500 employees, making up 9.2 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2022, 49.1 percent of the workforce was female and 50.9 percent was male, which is about same percentage as Missouri. The regional average unemployment rate for 2022 was 2.4 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the Ozark Region, a trend continuing throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2022, 22 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 19 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 9.6 percent of the workforce was non-white and 4.7 percent was Hispanic or Latino. This compares to the state averages of 18.1 percent non-white and 4.9 percent Hispanic or Latino.

In the Ozark Region, 5.4 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7.1 percent and the U.S. was at 23.7 percent.

The Ozark Region has a slightly higher percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state and nation. For the Ozark Region, 12.6 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12.3 percent in Missouri and 10.3 percent in the U.S.

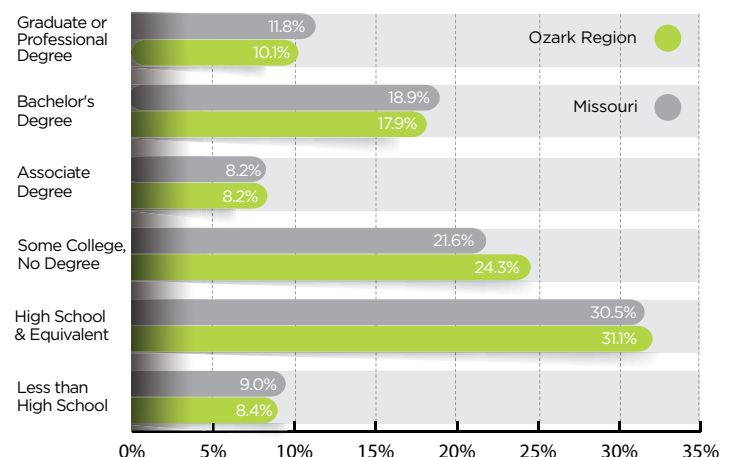
## Workforce Demographics

	Ozark MO	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2022	274,566	2,984,340	158,291,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2022	2.4%	2.5%	3.6%
Male	50.9%	51.1%	51.5%
Female	49.1%	48.9%	48.5%
Non-White	9.6%	18.1%	24.2%
Hispanic or Latino	4.7%	4.9%	17.4%
Ages 55 and Older	22.1%	22.5%	22.8%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	12.6%	12.3%	10.3%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	14.9%	12.5%	11.7%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	5.4%	7.1%	23.7%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	36.2%	38.9%	42.4%
Veterans (Age 18-64)	5.1%	4.9%	4.5%

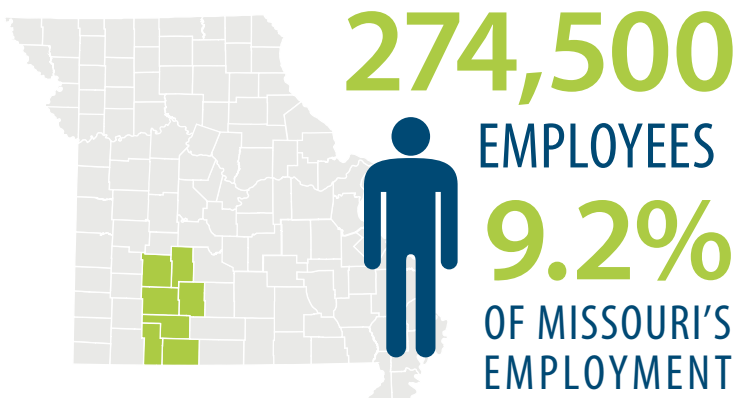
SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2021-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2022

Educational attainment rates for the Ozark Region are slightly behind those of the state for those with bachelor's or advanced degrees. Thirty-six percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 39 percent for the state, and about 42 percent for the nation. About 8.4 percent of the region's population of age 25 and older has less than high school education.

## Educational Attainment



SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2021 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

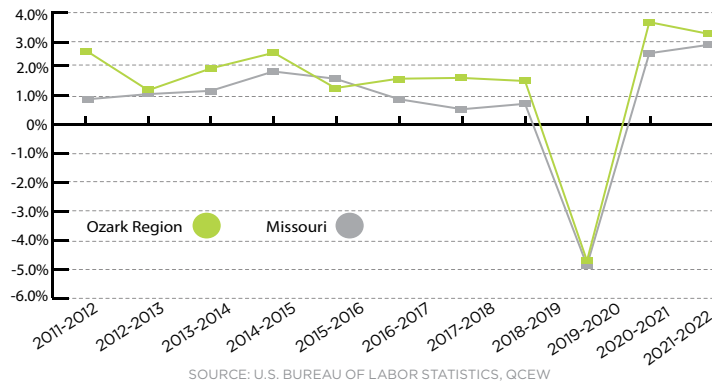


# OZARK REGION

## INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The Ozark Region averaged nearly 239,000 jobs in 2022. The region gained 7,826 jobs, an increase of 3.3 percent from 2021 to 2022. From 2018 to 2022, the Ozark Region averaged 0.7 percent compound annual growth for an overall increase of 3.5 percent. During that same period Missouri's employment declined by 1.4 percent. During that same period (2018-2022) Missouri's compound annual employment gain was 0.2 percent for an overall gain of 0.9 percent.

### Ozark Employment Annual Growth Rate



*Health Care and Social Assistance* is the largest employing industry in the Ozark Region, showing consistent growth over the years. With over 44,200 jobs in 2022, the industry added about 1,500 jobs at a compound annual growth rate of 0.7 percent since 2018. The *Retail Trade* industry continues to be one of the largest employing industries in the region with over 31,700 jobs in 2022, a gain of over 1,500 jobs since 2018.

The *Manufacturing* industry added the most jobs, with a gain of over 2,700 jobs since 2018. *Accommodation and Food Services* is the third largest industry with over 31,400 jobs in 2022, an increase of over 1,000 jobs since 2018. *Educational Services* and *Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services* are among the largest industries in the region. *Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services* (-766); *Wholesale Trade* (-681); *Educational Services* (-671); and *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services* (-10) are the industry sectors that lost jobs compared to 2018 employment levels.

### Ozark Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment		Net Change	2018-2022 Empl. CAGR	2021 Annual Wages
	2018	2022			
Health Care & Social Assistance	42,792	44,288	1,496	0.7%	\$61,968
Retail Trade	30,264	31,798	1,534	1.0%	\$37,224
Accommodation & Food Services	30,379	31,413	1,034	0.7%	\$26,028
Manufacturing	16,952	19,719	2,767	3.1%	\$56,388
Educational Services	18,940	18,269	-671	-0.7%	\$40,128
Administrative & Support & Waste Mngmnt & Remediation Services	15,488	14,722	-766	-1.0%	\$43,500
Transportation & Warehousing	11,833	13,786	1,953	3.1%	\$52,632
Construction	11,646	13,678	2,032	3.3%	\$52,980
Wholesale Trade	12,706	12,025	-681	-1.1%	\$76,848
Prof., Scientific, & Technical Services	11,117	11,107	-10	0.0%	\$65,892
Finance & Insurance	8,573	8,649	76	0.2%	\$65,820
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	8,209	8,219	10	0.0%	\$29,484

SOURCE: LEHD QWI, 2018-2022 QUARTER 3 DATA

## LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries with higher than 1.0 LQ indicate a concentration.

The Ozark Region has higher concentrations in *Scenic and Sightseeing Transportation*; *Truck Transportation*; *Museums, Historical Sites, and Similar Institutions*; *Accommodation*; and *Performing Arts and Related Industries*.



HIGHEST 2022  
LQ 3.4

## SCENIC AND SIGHTSEEING TRANSPORTATION

### 2022 Ozark Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Scenic & Sightseeing Transportation	164	3.4
Truck Transportation	8,078	3.1
Museums, Historical Sites, & Similar Institutions	577	2.2
Accommodation	6,125	2.1
Performing Arts & Related Industries	1,632	2.0
General Merchandise Retailers	8,046	1.5
Gasoline Stations & Fuel Dealers	2,599	1.5
Sporting Goods, Hobby, & Book Retailers	3,773	1.5
Building Material & Supplies Dealers	3,430	1.5
Telecommunications	1,526	1.4
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	3,166	1.3
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	7,301	1.3
Repair & Maintenance	2,972	1.3
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	6,121	1.2
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4,099	1.2

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QUARTERLY CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES 2022



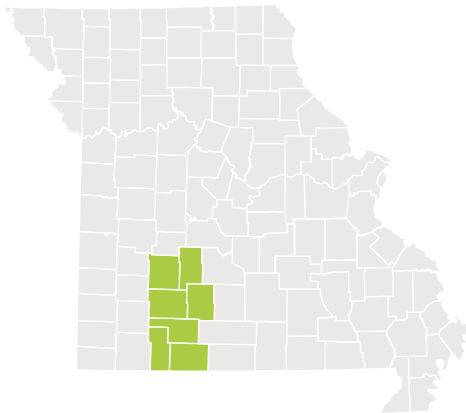
# OZARK REGION

Projected growth in industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest industry growth in the Ozark Region from 2020-2030 will be in the *Hospitals; Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services; Warehousing and Storage; Truck Transportation; and Ambulatory Health Care Services* industries.

## Ozark Region Largest Growth Industries 2020-2030

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2020 Estimated	2030 Projected	2020-2030 Numeric	Percent
Hospitals	17,884	19,564	1,680	9.4%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	9,546	10,938	1,392	14.6%
Warehousing & Storage	1,587	2,819	1,232	77.6%
Truck Transportation	7,568	8,774	1,206	15.9%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	11,582	12,479	897	7.7%
Amusement, Gambling, & Recreation Industries	3,105	3,984	879	28.3%
Local Gov., Excluding Education & Hospitals	8,569	9,404	835	9.7%
Specialty Trade Contractors	7,557	8,374	817	10.8%
Couriers & Messengers	1,263	1,904	641	50.8%
Bldg. Material & Garden Equip. Dealers	3,182	3,782	600	18.9%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030



PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

## OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimates labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations

**Now** jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. **Now** occupations with the most projected openings are *Fast Food and Counter Workers; Retail Salespersons; and Waiters and Waitresses. Ushers, Lobby Attendants, and Ticket Takers; Bartenders; and Hosts and Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge, and Coffee Shop* are projected to be the fastest growing **Now** occupations over the next decade.

**Next** jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers; Cooks; and Nursing Assistants* are projected to have the most openings for the **Next** category of occupations. *Cooks; Photographers; and Fitness Trainers and Aerobics Instructors* are the fastest growing **Next** occupations.

**Later** jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For **Later** occupations, *General and Operations Managers; Registered Nurses; and Accountants and Auditors* are projected to have the most openings. *Nurse Practitioners; Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists; and Medical and Health Services Managers* are the fastest growing **Later** occupations.

## Ozark Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH ANNUAL TOTAL OPENINGS OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED  
SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

# OZARK REGION

## Ozark Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2020 Estimated Employment	2030 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
<b>NOW</b>							
Fast Food & Counter Workers	7,731	9,078	135	815	888	1,838	\$21,028
Retail Salespersons	8,178	8,900	72	477	705	1,254	\$25,777
Waiters & Waitresses	5,005	6,164	116	410	667	1,193	\$19,939
Cashiers	6,648	6,554	-9	562	632	1,185	\$22,180
Stockers & Order Fillers	5,013	6,095	108	316	542	966	\$26,140
<b>NEXT</b>							
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	6,881	7,955	107	304	503	914	\$44,077
Cooks, Restaurant	3,097	4,706	161	230	334	725	\$25,525
Nursing Assistants	4,161	4,398	24	274	242	540	\$25,484
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation & Serving Workers	1,621	2,020	40	81	186	307	\$28,146
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	2,665	3,043	38	101	166	305	\$34,504
<b>LATER</b>							
General & Operations Managers	4,900	5,629	73	105	326	504	\$67,374
Registered Nurses	6,130	6,588	46	170	160	376	\$58,594
Accountants & Auditors	2,139	2,387	25	63	134	222	\$48,868
Project Mngmnt Specialists & Business Operations Specialists, All Other	1,782	1,950	17	43	92	152	\$61,784
Software Developers and Software Quality Assurance Analysts & Testers	1,354	1,667	31	35	74	140	\$67,956

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

## ONLINE JOB POSTINGS

Job postings are an indicator of demand and opportunities in an area, and can assist individuals seeking job opportunities in current in-demand occupations. According to information based on online job posting data collected and aggregated by Lightcast™ for the Ozark Region, jobs like *Registered Nurses*; *Retail Salespersons*; and *Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing* had a high number of job postings in the region during the last year.

### Ozark Region Top Five Online Job Postings in Now-Next-Later Classification

Occupation Title	Online Job Postings
<b>NOW</b>	
Retail Salespersons	2,830
Customer Service Representatives	1,820
Fast Food & Counter Workers	1,530
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	1,530
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	1,340
<b>NEXT</b>	
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing	2,240
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	2,070
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	2,060
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	1,500
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	1,150
<b>LATER</b>	
Registered Nurses	4,820
Medical & Health Services Managers	980
Software Developers	930
Managers, All Other	850
General & Operations Managers	680

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST™, ONLINE JOB ADS FROM MAY 1, 2022 - APRIL 30, 2023

This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report. This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.

# 2023 ECONOMIC REPORT

## SOUTH CENTRAL REGION



The South Central Region is comprised of 12 counties in the center of the southern portion of Missouri. The region is home to several cities including West Plains and Poplar Bluff.

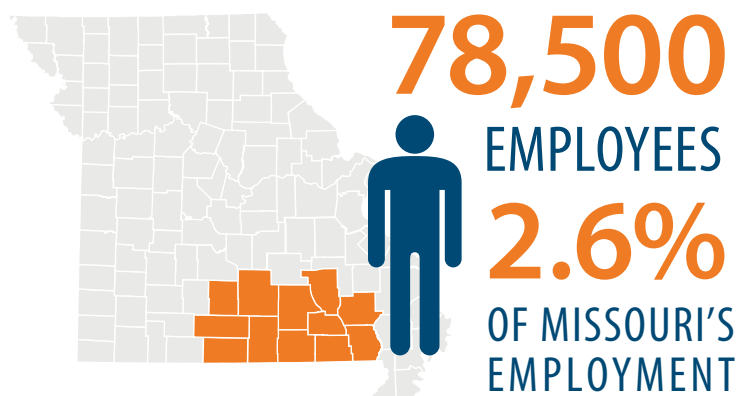
The South Central Region workforce has more than 78,500 employees, making up 2.6 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2022, 52.3 percent of the workforce was female and 47.7 percent was male, compared to Missouri's overall 48.9 percent female and 51.1 percent male. The regional average unemployment rate in 2022 was 3.0 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the South Central Region, a trend continuing throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2022, 23.8 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 20 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 6.8 percent of the workforce was non-white and 2.7 percent was Hispanic or Latino. This compares to the state averages of 18.1 percent non-white and 4.9 percent Hispanic or Latino.

In the South Central Region, 2.2 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7.1 percent and the U.S. was at 23.7 percent.

The South Central Region has a higher percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state and the nation. For the South Central Region, 21.7 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12.3 percent in Missouri and 10.3 percent in the U.S.



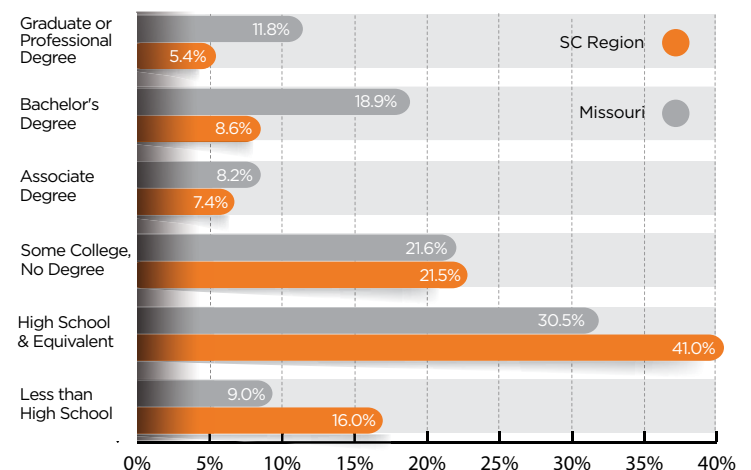
### Workforce Demographics

	SC Region	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2022	78,525	2,984,340	158,291,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2022	3.0%	2.5%	3.6%
Male	47.7%	51.1%	51.5%
Female	52.3%	48.9%	48.5%
Non-White	6.8%	18.1%	24.2%
Hispanic or Latino	2.7%	4.9%	17.4%
Ages 55 and Older	23.8%	22.5%	22.8%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	21.7%	12.3%	10.3%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	20.1%	12.5%	11.7%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	2.2%	7.1%	23.7%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	21.4%	38.9%	42.4%
Veterans (Age 18-64)	7.5%	4.9%	4.5%

SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2021-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2022

Educational attainment rates for the South Central Region are lower than those of the state for those with bachelor's or advanced degrees. Twenty-one percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 39 percent for the state, and about 42 percent for the nation. About 16.0 percent of the region's population of age 25 and older has less than high school education.

### Educational Attainment



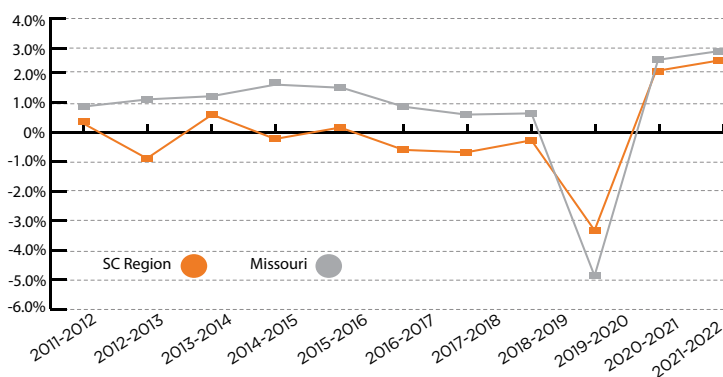
SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2021 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

# SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

## INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The South Central Region averaged over 59,800 jobs in 2022. The region gained 1,427 jobs, an increase of 2.4 percent from 2021 to 2022. From 2018 to 2022, the South Central Region averaged a 0.2 percent annual growth rate for an overall gain of 0.9 percent. During that same period (2018-2022) Missouri had the same compound annual employment gain of 0.2 percent for an overall gain of 0.9 percent.

### South Central Employment Annual Growth Rate



SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

*Health Care and Social Assistance* continues to be one of the largest employing industries in the region with over 11,700 jobs in 2022 and a -0.6 percent compound annual growth rate since 2018. *Manufacturing* is the second largest industry in the area with over 8,800 jobs. It gained 351 jobs since 2018. The *Retail Trade* and *Accommodation and Food Services* industries also gained employment of 658 and 661 jobs, respectively, since 2018.

*Health Care and Social Assistance* (-378) and *Public Administration* (-149) are the industry sectors that lost jobs compared to 2018 employment levels.

### South Central Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment 2018	Employment 2022	Net Change	2018-2022 Empl. CAGR	2021 Annual Wages
Health Care & Social Assistance	12,094	11,716	-378	-0.6%	\$37,584
Manufacturing	8,545	8,896	351	0.8%	\$44,700
Retail Trade	7,324	7,982	658	1.7%	\$31,884
Accommodation & Food Services	4,991	5,652	661	2.5%	\$19,224
Educational Services	5,248	5,265	17	0.1%	\$34,920
Public Administration	3,186	3,037	-149	-1.0%	\$37,692
Wholesale Trade	1,829	1,959	130	1.4%	\$55,260
Construction	1,836	1,924	88	0.9%	\$43,728
Finance & Insurance	1,704	1,709	5	0.1%	\$49,008
Prof., Scientific, & Technical Services	1,443	1,675	232	3.0%	\$64,680
Administrative & Support & Waste Management & Remediation Services	1,611	1,615	4	0.0%	\$28,716
Transportation & Warehousing	1,393	1,458	65	0.9%	\$42,852

SOURCE: LEHD QWI, 2018-2022 QUARTER 3 DATA

## LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries with higher than 1.0 LQ indicate a concentration.

The South Central Region has higher concentrations in *Wood Product Manufacturing*; *Gasoline Stations and Fuel Dealers*; *Machinery Manufacturing*; and *Forestry and Logging*.



HIGHEST 2022  
LQ 9.1

## WOOD PRODUCT MANUFACTURING

### 2022 South Central Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,557	9.1
Gasoline Stations & Fuel Dealers	1,450	3.5
Machinery Manufacturing	1,364	3.1
Forestry & Logging	50	2.5
Building Material & Supplies Dealers	1,012	1.8
General Merchandise Retailers	2,209	1.7
Social Assistance	2,770	1.7
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	1,964	1.6
Animal Production & Aquaculture	163	1.5
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	1,086	1.4
Truck Transportation	790	1.3
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	1,176	1.1

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QUARTERLY CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES 2022

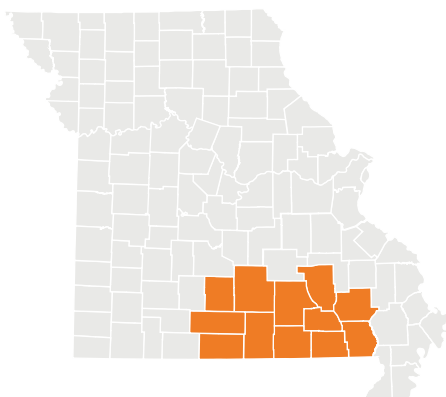
# SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Projected growth in industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest industry growth in the South Central Region from 2020-2030 will be in the *Food Services and Drinking Places; Social Assistance; Machinery Manufacturing; Accommodation, including Hotels and Motels; and Hospitals* industries.

## South Central Region Largest Growth Industries 2020-2030

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2020 Estimated	2030 Projected	2020-2030 Numeric	Percent
Food Services & Drinking Places	4,166	4,888	722	17.3%
Social Assistance	3,906	4,438	532	13.6%
Machinery Manufacturing	1,537	1,880	343	22.3%
Accommodation, including Hotels & Motels	707	926	219	31.0%
Hospitals	2,155	2,346	191	8.9%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	1,070	1,252	182	17.0%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	1,298	1,450	152	11.7%
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	865	960	95	11.0%
Repair & Maintenance	519	604	85	16.4%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	852	930	78	9.2%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030



PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

## OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimates labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

**Now** jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. **Now** occupations with the most projected openings are *Home Health and Personal Care Aides; Cashiers; and Fast Food and Counter Workers. Hosts and Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge, and Coffee Shop; Home Health and Personal Care Aides; and Waiters and Waitresses* are projected to be the fastest growing **Now** occupations over the next decade.

**Next** jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Assemblers and Fabricators; Cooks; and Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers* are projected to have the most openings for the **Next** category of occupations. *Cooks; First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers; and Maintenance and Repair Workers* are the fastest growing **Next** occupations.

**Later** jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For **Later** occupations, *General and Operations Managers; Registered Nurses; and Substitute Teachers* are projected to have the most openings. *General and Operations; Substitute Teachers; and Registered Nurses* are the fastest growing **Later** occupations.

## South Central Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH ANNUAL TOTAL OPENINGS OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED  
SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030



# SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

## South Central Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2020 Estimated Employment	2030 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
<b>NOW</b>							
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	3,712	4,338	63	258	228	549	\$23,358
Cashiers	3,114	2,988	-13	260	292	539	\$21,668
Fast Food & Counter Workers	1,485	1,636	15	151	165	331	\$20,859
Retail Salespersons	1,251	1,290	4	71	105	180	\$24,652
Office Clerks, General	1,637	1,566	-7	87	95	175	\$27,456
<b>NEXT</b>							
Miscellaneous Assemblers & Fabricators	1,884	2,012	13	74	139	226	\$30,717
Cooks, Restaurant	495	707	21	35	51	107	\$20,792
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	813	797	-2	33	55	86	\$36,061
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	660	645	-2	23	45	66	\$34,684
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	583	632	5	21	35	61	\$33,025
<b>LATER</b>							
General & Operations Managers	1,026	1,159	13	22	68	103	\$59,835
Registered Nurses	1,675	1,715	4	45	43	92	\$59,639
Substitute Teachers, Short-Term	735	756	2	44	40	86	\$26,032
Middle Schl Teachers, Except Special & Career/Technical Education	1,120	1,099	-2	34	44	76	\$46,010
Accountants & Auditors	444	483	4	13	28	45	\$52,621

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

## ONLINE JOB POSTINGS

Job postings are an indicator of demand and opportunities in an area, and can assist individuals seeking job opportunities in current in-demand occupations. According to information based on online job posting data collected and aggregated by Lightcast™ for the South Central Region, jobs like *Registered Nurses*; *Home Health and Personal Care Aides*; *Retail Salespersons*; and *Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers* had a high number of job postings in the region during the last year.

### South Central Region Top Five Online Job Postings in Now-Next-Later Classification

Occupation Title	Online Job Postings
<b>NOW</b>	
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	340
Retail Salespersons	300
Stockers & Order Fillers	130
Customer Service Representatives	130
Fast Food & Counter Workers	120
<b>NEXT</b>	
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	280
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	270
Merchandise Displayers & Window Trimmers	230
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	170
Nursing Assistants	140
<b>LATER</b>	
Registered Nurses	940
Physicians, All Other	220
General Internal Medicine Physicians	150
Medical and Health Services Managers	140
Occupational Therapists	100

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST™, ONLINE JOB ADS FROM MAY 1, 2022 - APRIL 30, 2023

This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report. This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.

# 2023 ECONOMIC REPORT SOUTHEAST REGION



DEPARTMENT OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION &  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Southeast Region is comprised of 13 counties in the southeast portion of Missouri. The region is home to several cities including Cape Girardeau, Sikeston, Caruthersville, and Park Hills.

The Southeast Region workforce has 157,290 employees, making up 5.3 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2022, 50.0 percent of the workforce was female and 50.0 percent was male, compared to Missouri's overall 48.9 percent female and 51.1 percent male. The regional average unemployment rate in 2022 was 2.8 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the Southeast Region, a trend continuing throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2022, 23.7 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 20 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 11.5 percent of the workforce was non-white and 2.6 percent was Hispanic or Latino. This compares to the state averages of 18.1 percent non-white and 4.9 percent Hispanic or Latino.

In the Southeast Region, 3.2 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7.1 percent and the U.S. was at 23.7 percent.

The Southeast Region has a higher percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state and the nation. For the Southeast Region, 17.4 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12.3 percent in Missouri and 10.3 percent in the U.S.

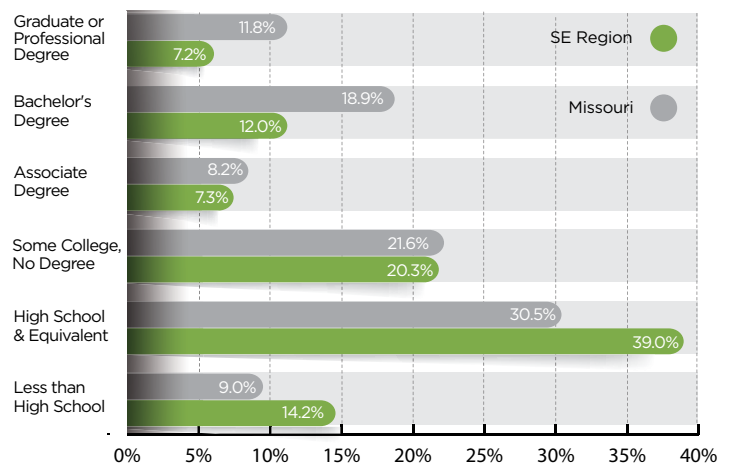
## Workforce Demographics

	SE Region	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2022	157,290	2,984,340	158,291,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2022	2.8%	2.5%	3.6%
Male	50.0%	51.1%	51.5%
Female	50.0%	48.9%	48.5%
Non-White	11.5%	18.1%	24.2%
Hispanic or Latino	2.6%	4.9%	17.4%
Ages 55 and Older	23.7%	22.5%	22.8%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	17.4%	12.3%	10.3%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	16.5%	12.5%	11.7%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	3.2%	7.1%	23.7%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	26.5%	38.9%	42.4%
Veterans (Age 18-64)	4.9%	4.9%	4.5%

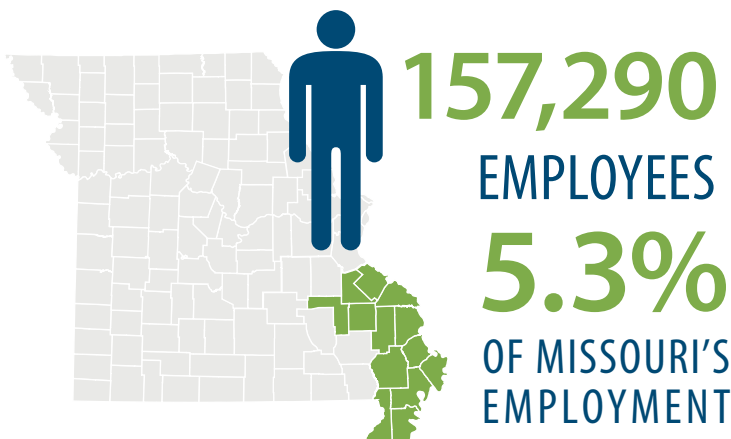
SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2021-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2022

Educational attainment rates for the Southeast Region are lower than those of the state for bachelor's or advanced degrees. Twenty-seven percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 39 percent for the state, and about 42 percent for the nation. About 14.2 percent of the region's population of age 25 and older has less than high school education.

## Educational Attainment



SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2021 5 YEAR ESTIMATES

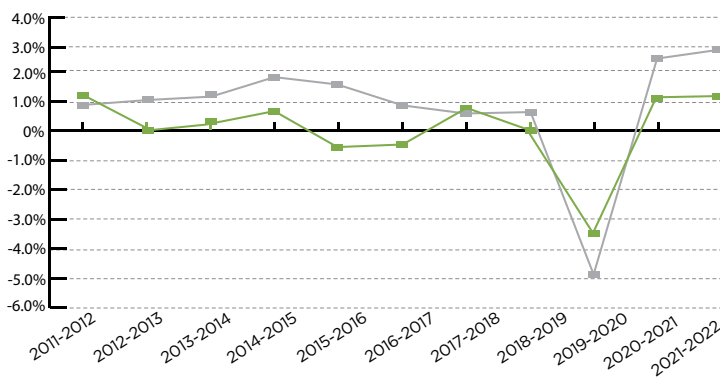


# SOUTHEAST REGION

## INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The Southeast Region averaged over 137,700 jobs in 2022. The region gained 1,625 jobs, an increase of 1.2 percent, from 2021 to 2022. From 2018 to 2022, the Southeast Region averaged a decrease of 0.3 percent compounded annually for an overall decrease of 1.3 percent. During that same period (2018-2022) Missouri had a compound annual employment gain of 0.2 percent for an overall gain of 0.9 percent.

Southeast Employment Annual Growth Rate



*Health Care and Social Assistance* is the largest employing industry in the region, even though it lost 1,439 in employment in 2022 when compared to 2018. *Manufacturing* is the second largest industry, followed by *Retail Trade* and *Accommodation and Food Services*.

More than half of the industry sectors in the Southeast Region lost employment between 2018 and 2022, except *Retail Trade*; *Accommodation and Food Services*; *Transportation and Warehousing*; *Finance and Insurance*; and *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*.

Southeast Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment		2018-2022		2021 Annual Wages
	2018	2022	Net Change	Empl. CAGR	
Health Care & Social Assistance	31,432	29,993	-1,439	-0.9%	\$41,220
Manufacturing	18,359	17,572	-787	-0.9%	\$57,396
Retail Trade	16,254	17,302	1,048	1.3%	\$34,272
Accommodation & Food Services	10,915	11,194	279	0.5%	\$19,836
Educational Services	10,907	10,187	-720	-1.4%	\$36,876
Construction	6,769	6,535	-234	-0.7%	\$53,796
Public Administration	6,869	5,887	-982	-3.0%	\$38,220
Wholesale Trade	6,159	5,750	-409	-1.4%	\$59,220
Transportation & Warehousing	4,942	5,430	488	1.9%	\$52,608
Administrative & Support & Waste Management & Remediation Services	5,199	4,210	-989	-4.1%	\$40,860
Finance & Insurance	3,906	4,101	195	1.0%	\$60,888
Prof., Scientific, & Tech. Services	3,143	3,725	582	3.5%	\$61,476

SOURCE: LEHD QWI, 2018 Q3-2022 Q3

## LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries with higher than 1.0 LQ indicate a concentration.

The Southeast Region has higher concentrations in *Gasoline Stations and Fuel Dealers*; *Crop Production*; *Social Assistance*; *Truck Transportation*; and *Nursing and Residential Care Facilities*.

 HIGHEST 2022  
LQ 3.1  
GASOLINE STATIONS

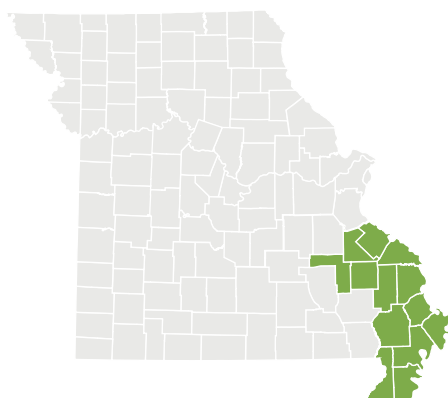
2022 Southeast Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Gasoline Stations & Fuel Dealers	2,906	3.1
Crop Production	1,412	2.8
Social Assistance	8,426	2.2
Truck Transportation	2,937	2.0
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	5,097	1.9
Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry	556	1.6
General Merchandise Retailers	4,359	1.5
Wood Product Manufacturing	575	1.5
Health & Personal Care Retailers	1,439	1.4
Building Material & Supplies Dealers	1,777	1.4
Mining (except Oil and Gas)	225	1.4
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	2,438	1.3
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	490	1.3
Sporting Goods, Hobby, & Book Retailers	1,683	1.2

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QUARTERLY CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES 2022

# SOUTHEAST REGION

Projected growth in industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest industry growth in the Southeast Region from 2020-2030 will be in the *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*; *Crop Production*; *Ambulatory Health Care Services*; *Merchant Wholesalers*; and *Couriers and Messengers* industries.



## Southeast Region Largest Growth Industries 2020-2030

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2020 Estimated	2030 Projected	2020-2030 Numeric	2020-2030 Percent
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	3,163	3,700	537	17.0%
Crop Production	3,978	4,351	373	9.4%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	7,065	7,376	311	4.4%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	3,035	3,264	229	7.6%
Couriers & Messengers	549	765	216	39.3%
Amusement, Gambling, & Recreation Industries	876	1,054	178	20.3%
Real Estate	939	1,076	137	14.6%
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	6,022	6,144	122	2.0%
Truck Transportation	2,928	3,037	109	3.7%
Repair & Maintenance	1,128	1,220	92	8.2%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

## OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimates labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

**Now** jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. **Now** occupations with the most projected openings are *Home Health and Personal Care Aides*; *Cashiers*; and *Fast Food and Counter Workers*. *Bartenders*; *Driver/Sales Workers*; and *Hosts and Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge, and Coffee Shop* are projected to be the fastest growing **Now** occupations over the next decade.

**Next** jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Nursing Assistants*; *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers*; and *Cooks* are projected to have the most openings for the **Next** category of occupations. *Cooks*; *Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders*; and *Industrial Machinery Mechanics* are the fastest growing **Next** occupations.

**Later** jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For **Later** occupations, *General and Operations Managers*; *Registered Nurses*; and *Accountants and Auditors* are projected to have the most openings. *Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists*; *Accountants and Auditors*; and *General and Operations Managers* are the fastest growing **Later** occupations.

## Southeast Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH ANNUAL TOTAL OPENINGS OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED  
SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

# SOUTHEAST REGION

## Southeast Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2020 Estimated Employment	2030 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
<b>NOW</b>							
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	8,476	9,191	72	566	500	1,138	\$22,976
Cashiers	4,201	3,961	-24	347	391	714	\$21,551
Fast Food & Counter Workers	3,101	3,392	29	315	343	687	\$20,630
Retail Salespersons	3,923	3,944	2	220	325	547	\$23,300
Stockers & Order Fillers	2,484	2,646	16	146	250	412	\$24,093
<b>NEXT</b>							
Nursing Assistants	3,514	3,475	-4	224	198	418	\$25,330
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	3,132	3,305	17	132	218	367	\$51,603
Cooks, Restaurant	1,299	1,858	56	93	135	284	\$22,035
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	1,561	1,611	5	56	92	153	\$35,745
Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	1,393	1,308	-8	79	69	140	\$33,625
<b>LATER</b>							
General & Operations Managers	2,648	2,804	16	54	169	239	\$63,644
Registered Nurses	3,486	3,441	-4	92	87	175	\$58,178
Accountants & Auditors	1,326	1,426	10	38	82	130	\$51,484
Secondary School Teachers, Ex. Spec. & Tech. Edu.	1,623	1,633	1	43	66	110	\$43,878
Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialists	523	634	11	14	42	67	\$43,746

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

## ONLINE JOB POSTINGS

Job postings are an indicator of demand and opportunities in an area, and can assist individuals seeking job opportunities in current in-demand occupations. According to information based on online job posting data collected and aggregated by Lightcast™ for the Southeast Region, jobs like *Registered Nurses*; *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers*; and *Retail Salespersons* had a high number of job postings in the region during the last year.

### Southeast Region Top Five Online Job Postings in Now-Next-Later Classification

Occupation Title	Online Job Postings
<b>NOW</b>	
Retail Salespersons	600
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	460
Fast Food & Counter Workers	380
Customer Service Representatives	250
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	240
<b>NEXT</b>	
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	730
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	580
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	350
Food Service Managers	340
Merchandise Displayers & Window Trimmers	320
<b>LATER</b>	
Registered Nurses	1,200
Physical Therapists	160
Medical & Health Services Managers	150
Physicians, All Other	150
Occupational Therapists	140

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST™, ONLINE JOB ADS FROM MAY 1, 2022 - APRIL 30, 2023

This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report. This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.



# 2023 ECONOMIC REPORT SOUTHWEST REGION



MISSOURI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION &  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Southwest Region is comprised of seven counties in the southwest corner of Missouri. This region is home to several cities including Joplin, Neosho, and Monett.

The Southwest Region workforce has more than 131,400 employees, making up 4.4 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2022, 45.0 percent of the workforce was female and 55.0 percent was male. The regional average unemployment rate in 2022 was 2.4 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the Southwest Region, a trend continuing throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2022, 23.3 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 20 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 10.2 percent of the workforce was non-white and 9.1 percent was Hispanic or Latino. This compares to the state averages of 18.1 percent non-white and 4.9 percent Hispanic or Latino.

In the Southwest Region, 7.8 percent of the population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7.1 percent and the U.S. was at 23.7 percent.

The Southwest Region has a slightly higher percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state and the nation. For the Southwest Region, 14.3 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12.3 percent in Missouri and 10.3 percent in the U.S.

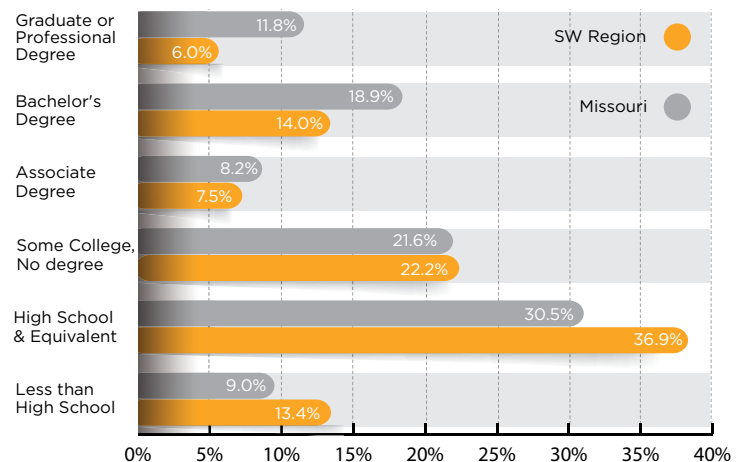
## Workforce Demographics

	SW Region	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2022	131,444	2,984,340	158,291,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2022	2.4%	2.5%	3.6%
Male	55.0%	51.1%	51.5%
Female	45.0%	48.9%	48.5%
Non-White	10.2%	18.1%	24.2%
Hispanic or Latino	9.1%	4.9%	17.4%
Ages 55 and Older	23.3%	22.5%	22.8%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	14.3%	12.3%	10.3%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	15.9%	12.5%	11.7%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	7.8%	7.1%	23.7%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	27.5%	38.9%	42.4%
Veterans (Age 18-64)	5.5%	4.9%	4.5%

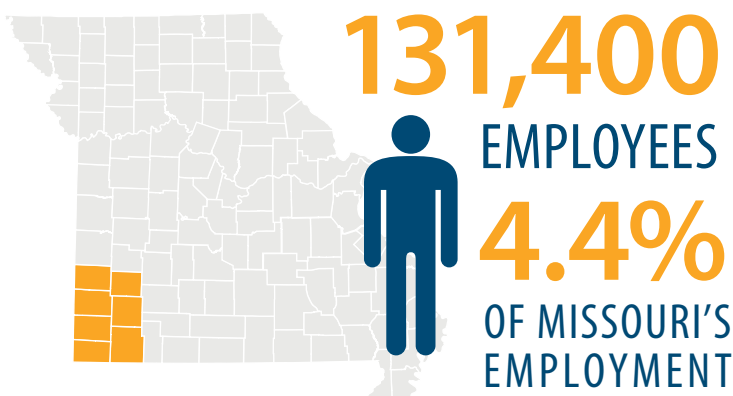
SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2021-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2022

Educational attainment rates for the Southwest Region are lower than those of the state for bachelor's or advanced degrees. Twenty-eight percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 39 percent for the state, and about 42 percent for the nation. About 13.4 percent of the region's population of age 25 and older has less than high school education.

## Educational Attainment



SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2021 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

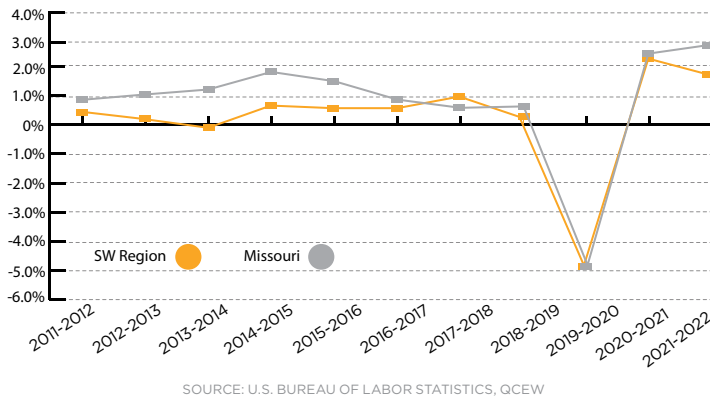


# SOUTHWEST REGION

## INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The Southwest Region averaged over 112,600 jobs in 2022. The region gained 1,890 jobs, an increase of 1.7 percent, from 2021 to 2022. From 2018 to 2022, the Southwest Region averaged -0.2 percent compound annual growth for an overall decrease of -0.9 percent. During that same period (2018-2022) Missouri had a compound annual employment gain of 0.2 percent for an overall gain of 0.9 percent.

Southwest Employment Annual Growth Rate



*Manufacturing* is the largest employing industry in the region at almost 23,600 jobs. *Health Care and Social Assistance* is the second largest industry in the region with about 15,000 jobs. *Retail Trade* gained 739 jobs from 2018 to 2022, with a compound annualized growth rate of 1.1 percent.

*Educational Services* declined by 685 in employment from 2018 and 2022. *Accommodation and Food Services* gained 775 jobs at a compound annual growth rate of 1.7 percent from 2018 to 2022. Several industry sectors in the Southwest Region lost employment between 2018 and 2022, including *Health Care and Social Assistance*; *Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services*; *Educational Services*; *Manufacturing* and *Public Administration*.

Southwest Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment		2018-2022		2021 Annual Wages
	2018	2022	Net Change	Empl. CAGR	
Manufacturing	23,871	23,578	-293	-0.25%	\$51,708
Health Care & Social Assistance	16,272	14,957	-1,315	-1.7%	\$54,216
Retail Trade	13,667	14,406	739	1.1%	\$35,868
Accommodation & Food Services	8,833	9,608	775	1.7%	\$20,544
Educational Services	9,485	8,800	-685	-1.5%	\$37,380
Transportation & Warehousing	7,048	8,027	979	2.6%	\$51,936
Construction	4,936	5,380	444	1.7%	\$52,440
Professional, Science, & Tech. Servs.	3,509	4,783	1,274	6.4%	\$66,060
Wholesale Trade	4,144	4,527	383	1.8%	\$62,484
Administrative Support & Waste	5,507	4,401	-1,106	-4.4%	\$38,340
Other Services (ex. Public Admin.)	2,859	2,921	62	0.4%	\$35,076
Public Administration	2,729	2,697	-32	-0.2%	\$33,768

SOURCE: LEHD QWI, 2018-2022 QUARTER 3 DATA

## LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries with higher than 1.0 LQ indicate a concentration.

The Southwest Region has higher concentrations in *Food Manufacturing*; *Animal Production and Aquaculture*; *Truck Transportation*; *Fabricated Metal Manufacturing*; and *Gasoline Stations and Fuel Dealers*.



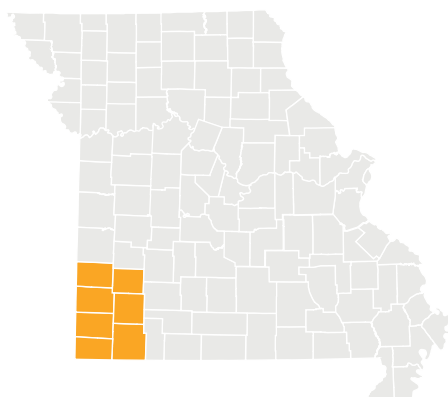
2022 Southwest Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Food Manufacturing	9,054	7.1
Animal Production & Aquaculture	1,060	5.3
Truck Transportation	4,965	4.2
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	3,049	2.8
Gasoline Stations & Fuel Dealers	2,083	2.7
Electrical Equip. & Appliance Manufacturing	805	2.6
General Merchandise Retailers	5,187	2.2
Wood Product Manufacturing	439	1.4
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	2,040	1.4
Building Material & Supplies Dealers	1,419	1.3
Utilities	545	1.3
Warehousing & Storage	1,844	1.3
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	398	1.3
Repair & Maintenance	1,200	1.2
Food Services & Drinking Places	9,188	1.1

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QUARTERLY CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES 2022

# SOUTHWEST REGION

Projected growth in industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest industry growth in the Southwest Region from 2020-2030 will be in the *Truck Transportation; Educational Services; Warehousing and Storage; Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services; and Hospitals* industries.



## Southwest Region Largest Growth Industries 2020-2030

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2020 Estimated	2030 Projected	2020-2030 Numeric	Percent
Truck Transportation	3,488	4,600	1,112	31.9%
Educational Services	8,996	10,041	1,045	11.6%
Warehousing & Storage	1,280	2,163	883	69.0%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	3,406	3,902	496	14.6%
Hospitals	6,131	6,507	376	6.1%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	4,167	4,465	298	7.2%
Specialty Trade Contractors	2,605	2,871	266	10.2%
Couriers & Messengers	503	761	258	51.3%
Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction	719	846	127	17.7%
Amusement, Gambling, & Recreation Industries	507	618	111	21.9%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

## OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

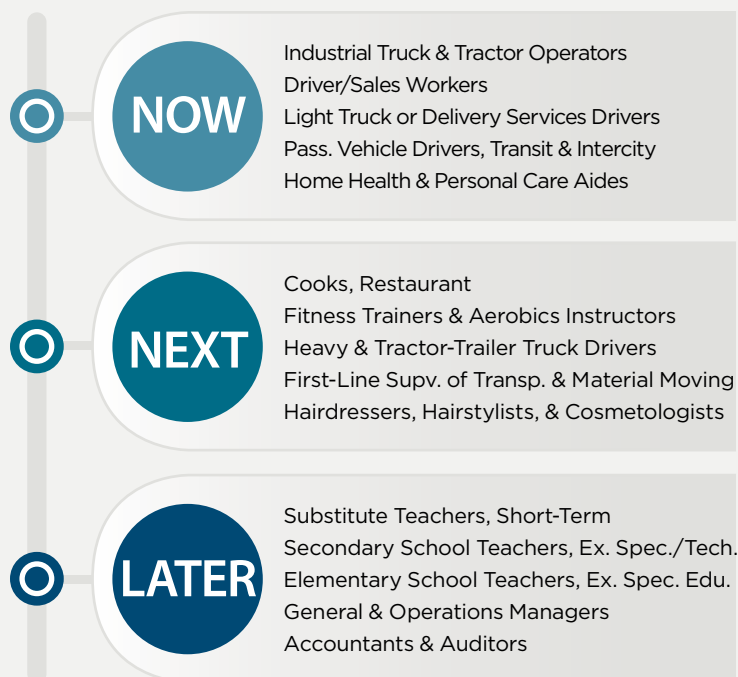
MERIC produces occupational projections that estimates labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

**Now** jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. **Now** occupations with the most projected openings are *Fast Food and Counter Workers; Retail Salespersons; and Cashiers. Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators; Driver/Sales Workers; and Light Truck or Delivery Services Drivers* are projected to be the fastest growing **Now** occupations over the next decade.

**Next** jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers; Cooks; and Food Batchmakers* are projected to have the most openings for the **Next** category of occupations. *Cooks; Fitness Trainers and Aerobics Instructors; and Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers* are the fastest growing **Next** occupations.

**Later** jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For **Later** occupations, *General and Operations Managers, Registered Nurses, and Secondary School Teachers* are projected to have the most openings. *Substitute Teachers; Secondary School Teachers; and Elementary School Teachers* are the fastest growing **Later** occupations.


## Southwest Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH ANNUAL TOTAL OPENINGS OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED  
SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

# SOUTHWEST REGION

## Southwest Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings




Occupation	2020 Estimated Employment	2030 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
 NOW							
Fast Food & Counter Workers	3,532	3,845	31	358	390	779	\$20,664
Retail Salespersons	3,502	3,487	-2	195	289	482	\$24,175
Cashiers	2,763	2,579	-18	227	256	465	\$22,390
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	3,171	3,666	50	219	194	463	\$23,371
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	3,123	3,309	19	141	280	440	\$29,044
 NEXT							
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	4,045	5,018	97	186	307	590	\$44,621
Cooks, Restaurant	1,182	1,663	48	84	122	254	\$22,285
Food Batchmakers	1,592	1,580	-1	74	118	191	\$31,413
Sales Rep. of Services, Ex. A, I, FS, & T	1,157	1,293	14	31	108	153	\$48,787
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	1,483	1,567	8	54	89	151	\$37,378
 LATER							
General & Operations Managers	2,175	2,407	23	46	142	211	\$62,057
Registered Nurses	2,960	3,109	15	81	76	172	\$47,737
Secondary School Teachers, Ex. Spec. & Tech. Edu.	1,446	1,625	18	41	62	121	\$39,979
Elementary School Teachers, Ex. Spec. Edu.	1,067	1,194	13	35	45	93	\$42,581
Substitute Teachers, Short-Term	586	680	9	38	34	81	\$24,381

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2020-2030

## ONLINE JOB POSTINGS

Job postings are an indicator of demand and opportunities in an area, and can assist individuals seeking job opportunities in current in-demand occupations. According to information based on online job posting data collected and aggregated by Lightcast™ for the Southwest Region, jobs like *Registered Nurses*; *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers*; and *Retail Salespersons* had a high number of job postings in the region during the last year.

### Southwest Region Top Five Online Job Postings in Now-Next-Later Classification

Occupation Title	Online Job Postings
 NOW	
Retail Salespersons	760
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	470
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	450
Fast Food & Counter Workers	420
Customer Service Representatives	320
 NEXT	
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	870
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	490
Food Service Managers	410
Production Workers, All Other	370
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	350
 LATER	
Registered Nurses	1640
Managers, All Other	250
Medical & Health Services Managers	250
Physicians, All Other	230
Physical Therapists	170

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST™, ONLINE JOB ADS FROM MAY 1, 2022 - APRIL 30, 2023

This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report. This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.

# 2023 ECONOMIC REPORT ST. LOUIS REGION



The St. Louis Region is comprised of five counties and is located in the east central part of Missouri. The region is home to several cities including Arnold, Washington, St. Charles, St. Peters, Florissant, O'Fallon, Chesterfield, and the City of St. Louis.

The St. Louis Region workforce has more than 1,051,200 employees, making up 35 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2022, 49.9 percent of the workforce was female and 50.1 percent was male, which is close to the Missouri average. The regional average unemployment rate for 2022 was 2.4 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the St. Louis Region, a trend continuing throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2022, 23.7 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 19 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 24.4 percent of the workforce was non-white and 3.5 percent was Hispanic or Latino. This compares to the state averages of 18.1 percent non-white and 4.9 percent Hispanic or Latino.

In the St. Louis Region, 9.6 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7.1 percent and the U.S. was at 23.7 percent.

The St. Louis Region has a lower percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state, but closely matched to the nation. For the St. Louis Region, 9.8 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12.3 percent in Missouri and 10.3 percent in the U.S.

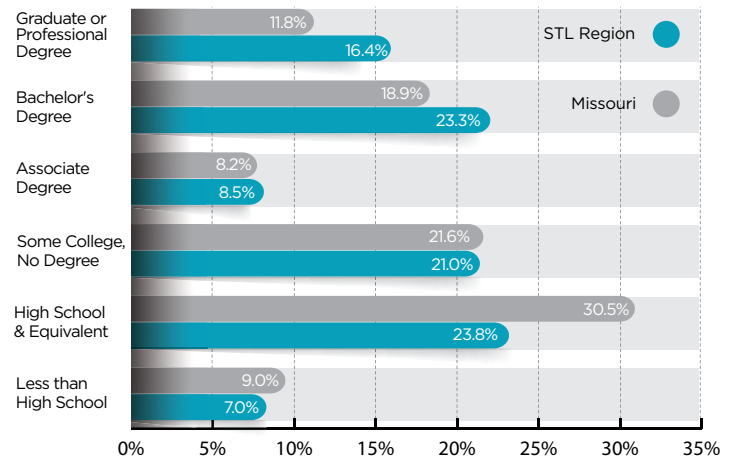
## Workforce Demographics

	St. Louis MO	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2022	1,051,242	2,984,340	158,291,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2022	2.4%	2.5%	3.6%
Male	50.1%	51.1%	51.5%
Female	49.9%	48.9%	48.5%
Non-White	24.4%	18.1%	24.2%
Hispanic or Latino	3.5%	4.9%	17.4%
Ages 55 and Older	23.7%	22.5%	22.8%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	9.8%	12.3%	10.3%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	9.7%	12.5%	11.7%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	9.6%	7.1%	23.7%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	48.2%	38.9%	42.4%
Veterans (Age 18-64)	3.9%	4.9%	4.5%

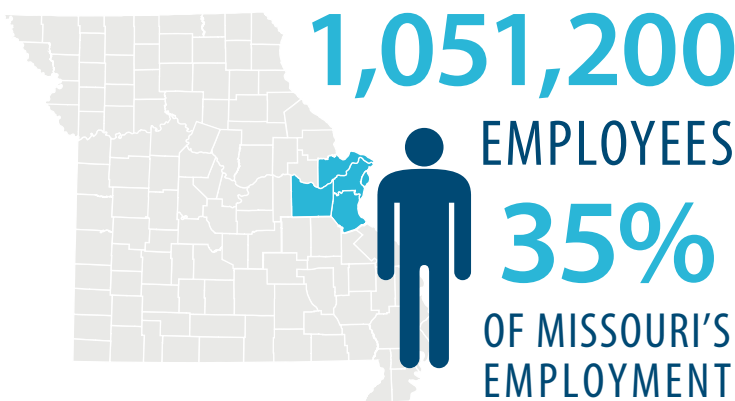
SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2021-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2022

Educational attainment rates for the St. Louis Region are greater than those of the state for bachelor's or advanced degrees. Forty-eight percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 39 percent for the state, and about 42 percent for the nation. About 7.0 percent of the region's population of age 25 and older has less than high school education.

## Educational Attainment



SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2021 5-YEAR ESTIMATES



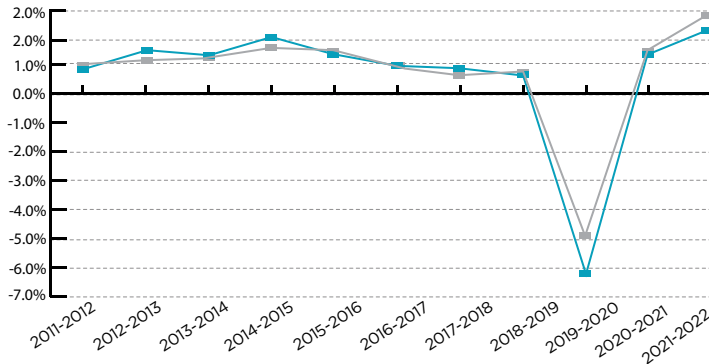


# ST. LOUIS REGION

## INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The St. Louis Region averaged over 1,055,800 jobs in 2022. The region gained 23,453 jobs, an increase of 2.3 percent from 2021 to 2022. From 2018 to 2022, the St. Louis Region averaged -0.37 percent compound annual growth for an overall decrease of 1.8 percent. During that same period (2018-2022) Missouri had a compound annual employment gain of 0.2 percent for an overall gain of 0.9 percent.

St. Louis Employment Annual Growth Rate



*Health Care and Social Assistance* is the largest employing industry in the St. Louis Region, with employment of over 185,700. *Retail Trade* is the second largest industry despite declining at an average rate of 0.9 percent a year since 2018. *Accommodation and Food Services* lost over 7,344 jobs in 2022 when compared to 2018.

*Manufacturing* grew at a compound annualized rate of 0.8 percent. The industry sector with the largest increase in employment was *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*, with an increase of about 7,000 jobs, at a rate of 1.9 percent annually from 2018 to 2022.

Industry sectors in the St. Louis Region that lost employment between 2018 and 2022 include *Accommodation and Food Services*; *Retail Trade*; *Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services*; *Management of Companies and Enterprises*; and *Educational Services*.

### St. Louis Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment		Net Change	2018-2022 Empl. CAGR	2021 Annual Wages
	2018	2022			
Health Care & Social Assistance	181,583	185,785	4,202	0.46%	\$60,528
Retail Trade	110,582	105,759	-4,823	-0.9%	\$41,100
Manufacturing	94,201	98,266	4,065	0.8%	\$81,540
Accommodation & Food Services	103,768	96,424	-7,344	-1.5%	\$26,460
Professional, Science & Tech. Servs.	72,764	79,761	6,997	1.9%	\$94,452
Administrative Support & Waste	82,706	78,844	-3,862	-1.0%	\$54,660
Educational Services	75,219	73,437	-1,782	-0.5%	\$57,228
Finance & Insurance	64,384	67,583	3,199	1.0%	\$100,800
Construction	56,507	61,033	4,526	1.6%	\$72,876
Wholesale Trade	54,479	58,175	3,696	1.3%	\$88,716
Transportation & Warehousing	37,195	42,879	5,684	2.9%	\$52,560
Mngt. of Companies & Enterprises	42,644	39,518	-3,126	-1.5%	\$109,308

SOURCE: LEHD QWI, 2018-2022 QUARTER 3 DATA

## LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries with higher than 1.0 LQ indicate a concentration.

The St. Louis Region has higher concentrations in *Management of Companies and Enterprises*; *Chemical Manufacturing*; and *Hospitals*.



HIGHEST 2022  
LQ 2.1

## MANAGEMENT OF COMPANIES AND ENTERPRISES

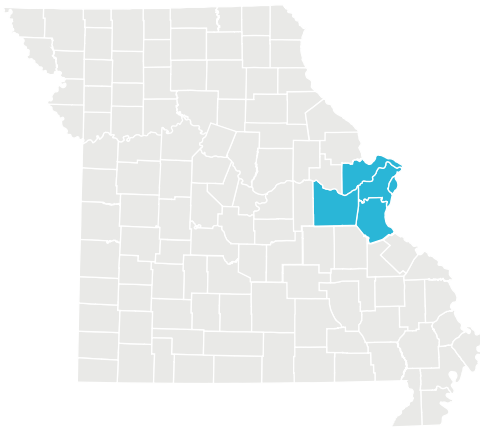
### 2022 St. Louis Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Management of Companies & Enterprises	36,376	2.1
Chemical Manufacturing	11,886	1.9
Hospitals	60,136	1.7
Beverage & Tobacco Product Mnfng.	3,552	1.6
Machinery Manufacturing	11,866	1.5
Printing & Related Support Activities	4,039	1.5
Securities, Comm. Contracts, & Rel. Act.	10,549	1.5
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	25,397	1.4
Social Assistance	42,244	1.4
Educational Services	29,190	1.4
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	31,153	1.3
Museums, Historical Sites, & Similar Institutions	1,460	1.3
Telecommunications	6,042	1.3
Comp. Infrastructure Prov. & Related Serv.	4,028	1.2
Performing Arts & Related Industries	4,078	1.2

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QUARTERLY CENSUS OF  
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES 2022

# ST. LOUIS REGION

Projected growth in industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest industry growth in the St. Louis Region from 2020-2030 will be in the *Food Services and Drinking Places*; *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*; *Administrative and Support Services*; *Ambulatory Health Care Services*; and *Hospitals* industries.



## St. Louis Region Largest Growth Industries 2020-2030

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2020 Estimated	2030 Projected	2020-2030 Numeric	Percent
Food Services & Drinking Places	71,753	89,529	17,776	24.8%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	64,921	72,429	7,508	11.6%
Administrative & Support Services	58,127	65,348	7,221	12.4%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	45,732	52,405	6,673	14.6%
Hospitals	67,779	74,144	6,365	9.4%
Educational Services	82,344	88,037	5,693	6.9%
Specialty Trade Contractors	33,339	37,133	3,794	11.4%
Accommodation, including Hotels & Motels	8,400	11,609	3,209	38.2%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	29,798	32,231	2,433	8.2%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Prof., & Similar Orgs.	26,101	28,251	2,150	8.2%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

## OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

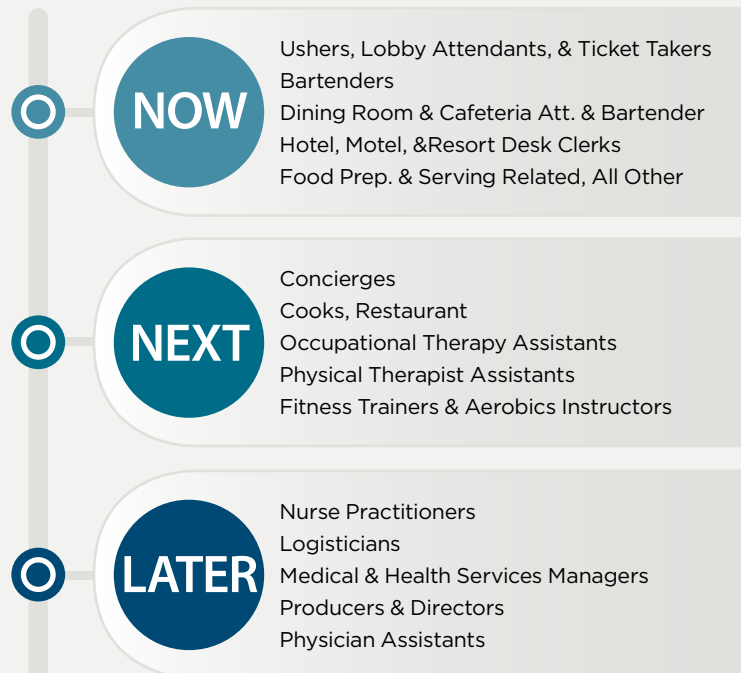
MERIC produces occupational projections that estimates labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

**Now** jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. **Now** occupations with the most projected openings are *Fast Food and Counter Workers*; *Home Health and Personal Care Aides*; and *Waiters and Waitresses*. *Ushers, Lobby Attendants, and Ticket Takers*; *Bartenders*; and *Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendants and Bartender Helpers* are projected to be the fastest growing **Now** occupations over the next decade.

**Next** jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Cooks*; *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers*; and *Nursing Assistants* are projected to have the most openings for the **Next** category of occupations. *Concierges*; *Cooks*; and *Occupational Therapy Assistants* are the fastest growing **Next** occupations.

**Later** jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For **Later** occupations, *General and Operations Managers*; *Registered Nurses*; and *Software Developers and Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers* are projected to have the most openings. *Nurse Practitioners*; *Logisticians*; and *Medical and Health Services Managers* are the fastest growing **Later** occupations.

## St. Louis Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH ANNUAL TOTAL OPENINGS OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED  
SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

# ST. LOUIS REGION

## St. Louis Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2020 Estimated Employment	2030 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
<b>NOW</b>							
Fast Food & Counter Workers	22,825	26,389	356	2,386	2,602	5,344	\$23,649
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	33,152	39,921	677	2,339	2,069	5,085	\$24,244
Waiters & Waitresses	16,546	20,094	355	1,345	2,188	3,888	\$20,703
Retail Salespersons	28,734	28,041	-69	1,587	2,345	3,863	\$26,484
Cashiers	19,311	17,087	-222	1,548	1,742	3,068	\$23,669
<b>NEXT</b>							
Cooks, Restaurant	10,232	15,517	528	758	1,102	2,388	\$26,404
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	12,972	14,080	111	554	917	1,582	\$52,641
Nursing Assistants	11,993	12,618	62	788	697	1,547	\$26,088
Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	11,573	11,214	-36	668	582	1,214	\$41,390
First-Line Supv. of Food Prep. & Serving Workers	6,415	7,910	150	320	730	1,200	\$33,098
<b>LATER</b>							
General & Operations Managers	23,638	25,990	235	496	1,538	2,269	\$96,825
Registered Nurses	32,535	35,347	281	906	854	2,041	\$66,696
Software Developers & Analysts and Testers	15,411	18,227	282	390	825	1,497	\$97,945
Accountants & Auditors	12,873	13,709	84	370	787	1,241	\$71,382
Proj. Mngt. Specialists & Business Op. Specialists	12,183	12,756	57	289	612	958	\$78,075

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2020-2030

## ONLINE JOB POSTINGS

Job postings are an indicator of demand and opportunities in an area, and can assist individuals seeking job opportunities in current in-demand occupations. According to information based on online job posting data collected and aggregated by Lightcast™ for the St. Louis Region, jobs like *Registered Nurses*; *Software Developers*; *Sales Representatives*, *Wholesale and Manufacturing*; and *Retail Salespersons* had a high number of job postings in the region during the last year.

### St. Louis Region Top Five Online Job Postings in Now-Next-Later Classification

Occupation Title	Online Job Postings
<b>NOW</b>	
Retail Salespersons	8,850
Customer Service Representatives	6,740
Fast Food & Counter Workers	5,780
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	5,600
Janitors & Cleaners	4,500
<b>NEXT</b>	
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing	8,320
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	6,870
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	5,070
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	4,470
Food Service Managers	4,380
<b>LATER</b>	
Registered Nurses	25,550
Software Developers	9,060
Computer Occupations, All Other	5,950
Managers, All Other	5,660
Medical & Health Services Managers	4,810

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST™, ONLINE JOB ADS FROM MAY 1, 2022 - APRIL 30, 2023

This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report. This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.

# 2023 ECONOMIC REPORT WEST CENTRAL REGION



The West Central Region is comprised of 13 counties in the west central part of Missouri. This region is home to cities including Warrensburg, Sedalia, Lexington, Clinton, and Nevada.

The West Central Region workforce has more than 122,000 employees, making up 4.1 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2022, 48.5 percent of the workforce was female and 51.5 percent was male. The regional average unemployment rate for 2022 was 2.7 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the West Central Region, a trend continuing throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2022, 24.5 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 22 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 8.3 percent of the workforce was non-white and 6.3 percent was Hispanic or Latino. This compares to the state averages of 18.1 percent non-white and 4.9 percent Hispanic or Latino.

In the West Central Region, 5.1 percent of the population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7.1 percent and the U.S. was at 23.7 percent.

The West Central Region has a higher percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state and the nation. For the West Central Region, 15.8 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12.3 percent in Missouri and 10.3 percent in the U.S.

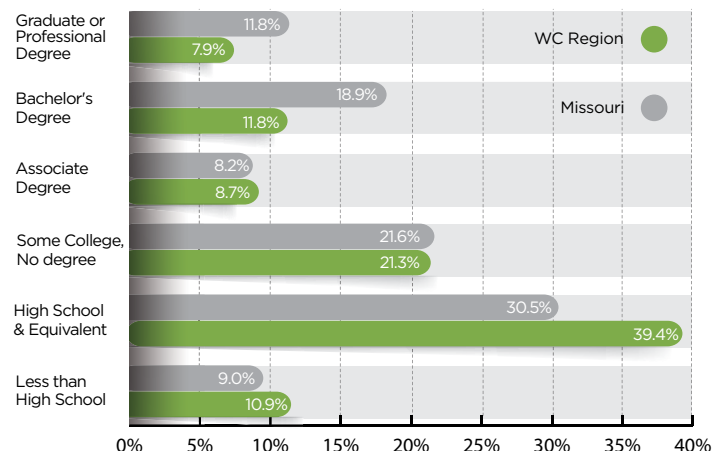
## Workforce Demographics

	WC Region	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2022	122,033	2,984,340	158,291,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2022	2.7%	2.5%	3.6%
Male	51.5%	51.1%	51.5%
Female	48.5%	48.9%	48.5%
Non-White	8.3%	18.1%	24.2%
Hispanic or Latino	6.3%	4.9%	17.4%
Ages 55 and Older	24.5%	22.5%	22.8%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	15.8%	12.3%	10.3%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	14.7%	12.5%	11.7%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	5.1%	7.1%	23.7%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	28.4%	38.9%	42.4%
Veterans (Age 18-64)	6.8%	4.9%	4.5%

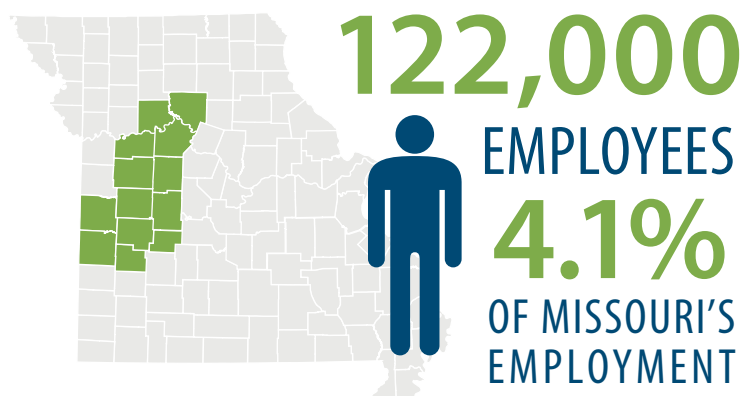
SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2021 5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2022

Educational attainment rates for the West Central Region are lower than those of the state for bachelor's or advanced degrees. Twenty-eight percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 39 percent for the state, and about 42 percent for the nation. About 10.9 percent of the region's population of age 25 and older has less than high school education.

## Educational Attainment



SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2021 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

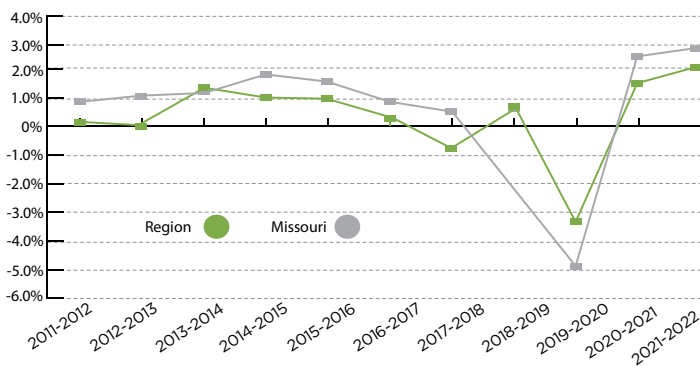


# WEST CENTRAL REGION

## INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The West Central Region averaged over 84,100 jobs in 2022. The region gained 1,676 jobs, an increase of 2.0 percent from 2021 to 2022. From 2018 to 2022, the West Central Region averaged 0.25 percent compound annual growth for an overall gain of 0.8 percent. During that same period (2018-2022) Missouri had a compound annual employment gain of 0.2 percent for an overall gain of 0.9 percent.

West Central Employment Annual Growth Rate



SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

The *Health Care and Social Assistance* industry is the largest employing industry in the region with over 15,400 jobs. *Manufacturing* and *Retail Trade* are the next largest industries in the area, with over 13,700 and 10,500 jobs in 2022, respectively.

The majority of industries in the region had employment gains from 2018 to 2022.

West Central Region Top Employing Industries

Employment Industry	Net		2018-2022		2021 Annual Wages
	2018	2022	Empl. Change	CAGR	
Health Care & Social Assistance	15,974	15,430	-544	-0.7%	\$43,176
Manufacturing	12,264	13,728	1,464	2.3%	\$53,208
Retail Trade	10,186	10,585	399	0.8%	\$33,852
Educational Services	8,926	8,679	-247	-0.6%	\$37,188
Accommodation & Food Services	6,963	6,992	29	0.1%	\$18,264
Construction	3,487	4,040	553	3.0%	\$48,480
Public Administration	4,089	3,968	-121	-0.6%	\$30,456
Wholesale Trade	2,795	3,072	277	1.9%	\$62,964
Administrative Support & Waste	2,257	2,479	222	1.9%	\$41,172
Finance & Insurance	2,600	2,432	-168	-1.3%	\$60,876
Transportation & Warehousing	2,163	2,265	102	0.9%	\$42,660
Prof., Scientific, & Tech. Services	1,939	2,157	218	2.2%	\$65,400

SOURCE: LEHD QWI, 2018-2022 QUARTER 3 DATA

## LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries with higher than 1.0 LQ indicate a concentration.

The West Central Region has higher concentrations in *Gasoline Stations and Fuel Dealers*; *Animal Production and Aquaculture*; *Primary Metal Manufacturing*; *Machinery Manufacturing*; and *Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing*.

 **HIGHEST 2022**  
**LQ 3.3**  
**GASOLINE STATIONS**

2022 West Central Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Gasoline Stations & Fuel Dealers	1,926	3.3
Animal Production & Aquaculture	408	2.8
Primary Metal Manufacturing	461	2.3
Machinery Manufacturing	1,371	2.2
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	1,652	2.1
Crop Production	624	2.0
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	3,357	2.0
Food Manufacturing	1,875	2.0
Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry	383	1.8
General Merchandise Retailers	2,881	1.6
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	1,660	1.5
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	1,735	1.4
Building Material Supplies Dealers	1,073	1.3
Social Assistance	2,927	1.2
Repair & Maintenance	882	1.1

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QUARTERLY CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES 2022



# WEST CENTRAL REGION

Projected growth in industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest industry growth in the West Central Region from 2020-2030 will be in the *Food Services and Drinking Places; Hospitals, Educational Services; Ambulatory Health Care Services; and Food Manufacturing* industries.

## West Central Region Largest Growth Industries 2020-2030

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2020 Estimated	2030 Projected	2020-2030 Numeric	Percent
Food Services & Drinking Places	6,354	7,473	1,119	17.6%
Hospitals	4,211	4,607	396	9.4%
Educational Services	9,686	10,049	363	3.8%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	2,188	2,507	319	14.6%
Food Manufacturing	3,798	4,086	288	7.6%
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	1,666	1,927	261	15.7%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	1,707	1,956	249	14.6%
Administrative & Support Services	1,439	1,618	179	12.4%
Machinery Manufacturing	1,345	1,515	170	12.6%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	998	1,154	156	15.6%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

## OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

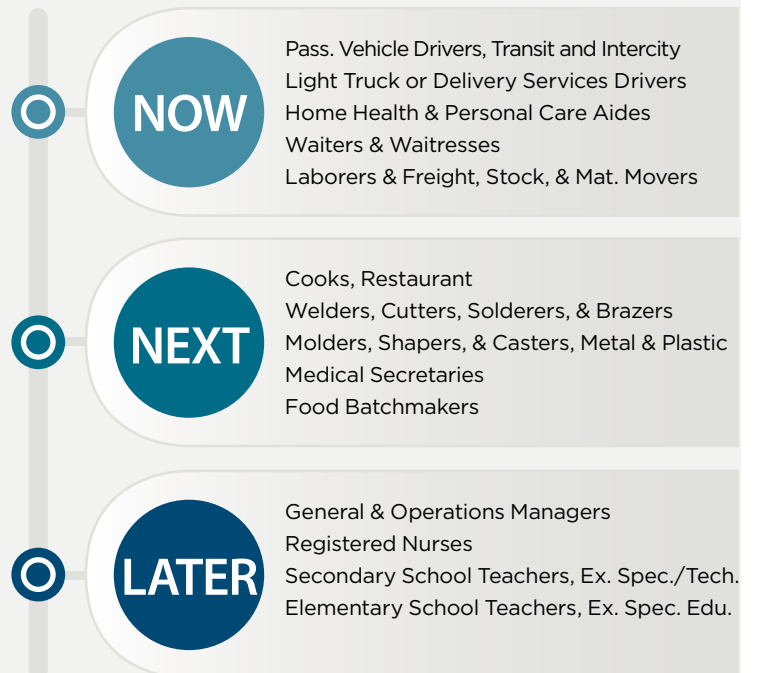
MERIC produces occupational projections that estimates labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

**Now** jobs typically require short-term, on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. **Now** occupations with the most projected openings are *Home Health and Personal Care Aides; Cashiers; and Fast Food and Counter Workers. Passenger Vehicle Driver; Light Truck or Delivery Services Drivers; and Home Health and Personal Care Aides* are projected to be the fastest growing **Now** occupations over the next decade.

**Next** jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate to long-term training. *Cooks; Nursing Assistants; and Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers* are projected to have the most openings for the **Next** category of occupations. *Cooks; Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers; and Molding, Coremaking, and Casting Machine Setters* are the fastest growing **Next** occupations.

**Later** jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For **Later** occupations, *Secondary School Teachers; General and Operations Managers; and Registered Nurses* are projected to have the most openings. *General and Operations Managers; Registered Nurses; and Secondary School Teachers* are the fastest growing **Later** occupations.

## West Central Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH ANNUAL TOTAL OPENINGS OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED  
SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

# WEST CENTRAL REGION

## West Central Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2020 Estimated Employment	2030 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
<b>NOW</b>							
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	3,638	4,176	54	250	221	525	\$22,380
Cashiers	2,752	2,544	-21	225	254	458	\$22,665
Fast Food & Counter Workers	1,701	1,848	15	172	188	375	\$21,202
Waiters & Waitresses	1,614	1,811	20	126	204	350	\$20,179
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	2,016	2,193	18	92	183	293	\$28,246
<b>NEXT</b>							
Cooks, Restaurant	1,285	1,829	54	92	133	279	\$22,004
Nursing Assistants	1,503	1,545	4	98	86	188	\$23,783
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	1,521	1,623	10	64	107	181	\$45,163
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	1,457	1,511	5	52	87	144	\$34,889
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	970	1,009	4	44	46	94	\$24,253
<b>LATER</b>							
Secondary School Teachers, Ex. Spec. & Tech. Edu.	2,295	2,392	10	62	95	167	\$42,934
General & Operations Managers	1,441	1,552	11	30	93	134	\$59,631
Registered Nurses	1,597	1,713	12	44	42	98	\$60,913
Elementary School Teachers, Ex. Spec. Edu.	688	714	3	22	28	53	\$41,616
Proj. Mngt. Specialists & Business Op. Specialists	576	575	0	13	28	41	\$67,698

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2020-2030

## ONLINE JOB POSTINGS

Job postings are an indicator of demand and opportunities in an area, and can assist individuals seeking job opportunities in current in-demand occupations. According to information based on online job posting data collected and aggregated by Lightcast™ for the West Central Region, jobs like *Registered Nurses*; *Retail Salespersons*; and *Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses* had a high number of job postings in the region during the last year.

### West Central Region Top Five Online Job Postings in Now-Next-Later Classification

Occupation Title	Online Job Postings
<b>NOW</b>	
Retail Salespersons	540
Fast Food & Counter Workers	430
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	360
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	300
Customer Service Representatives	260
<b>NEXT</b>	
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	450
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	430
Food Service Managers	410
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	390
Merchandise Displayers & Window Trimmers	310
<b>LATER</b>	
Registered Nurses	1,200
Managers, All Other	200
Medical & Health Services Managers	180
Software Developers	170
Postsecondary Teachers	160

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST™, ONLINE JOB ADS FROM MAY 1, 2022 - APRIL 30, 2023

This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report. This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.

# DATA SOURCES

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## GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Annual Gross Domestic Product by State. Real GDP in chained 2012 dollars.

<https://apps.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?reqid=70&step>

## PERSONAL INCOME

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Annual Personal Income and Employment by State. Current dollars (not adjusted for inflation).

<https://apps.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?reqid=70&step>

## COST OF LIVING

The Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER). Cost of Living Index.

<https://www.coli.org/>

## CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Demographics from the Current Population Survey.

<https://www.bls.gov/cps/demographics.htm>

U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

<https://www.bls.gov/data/#unemployment>

## EMPLOYMENT & UNEMPLOYMENT

U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

<https://www.bls.gov/data/#unemployment>

U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Current Employment Statistics.

<https://www.bls.gov/data/#employment>

MERIC in cooperation with the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, micro-data, 2015-2022.

U.S. Dept. of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA). The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014.

<https://www.doleta.gov/wioa/>

## WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS

Disability, Poverty Level, Language, Educational Attainment

U.S. Census Bureau.

American Community Survey (ACS) 2021 5 Year Estimates.

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>

Employment and Unemployment

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

<https://www.bls.gov/lau/#tables>

Sex, Age, Race, Ethnicity

U.S. Census Bureau. Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics (LEHD). LED Extraction Tool. 2022 3rd quarter.

<https://ledextract.ces.census.gov/static/data.html>

## INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW).

[https://data.bls.gov/cew/apps/data\\_views/data\\_views.htm#tab=Tables](https://data.bls.gov/cew/apps/data_views/data_views.htm#tab=Tables)

## LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS

MERIC in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS).

<https://meric.mo.gov/data/unemployment>

MERIC in cooperation with Lightcast™.

MERIC in cooperation with the Missouri Office of Workforce Development.

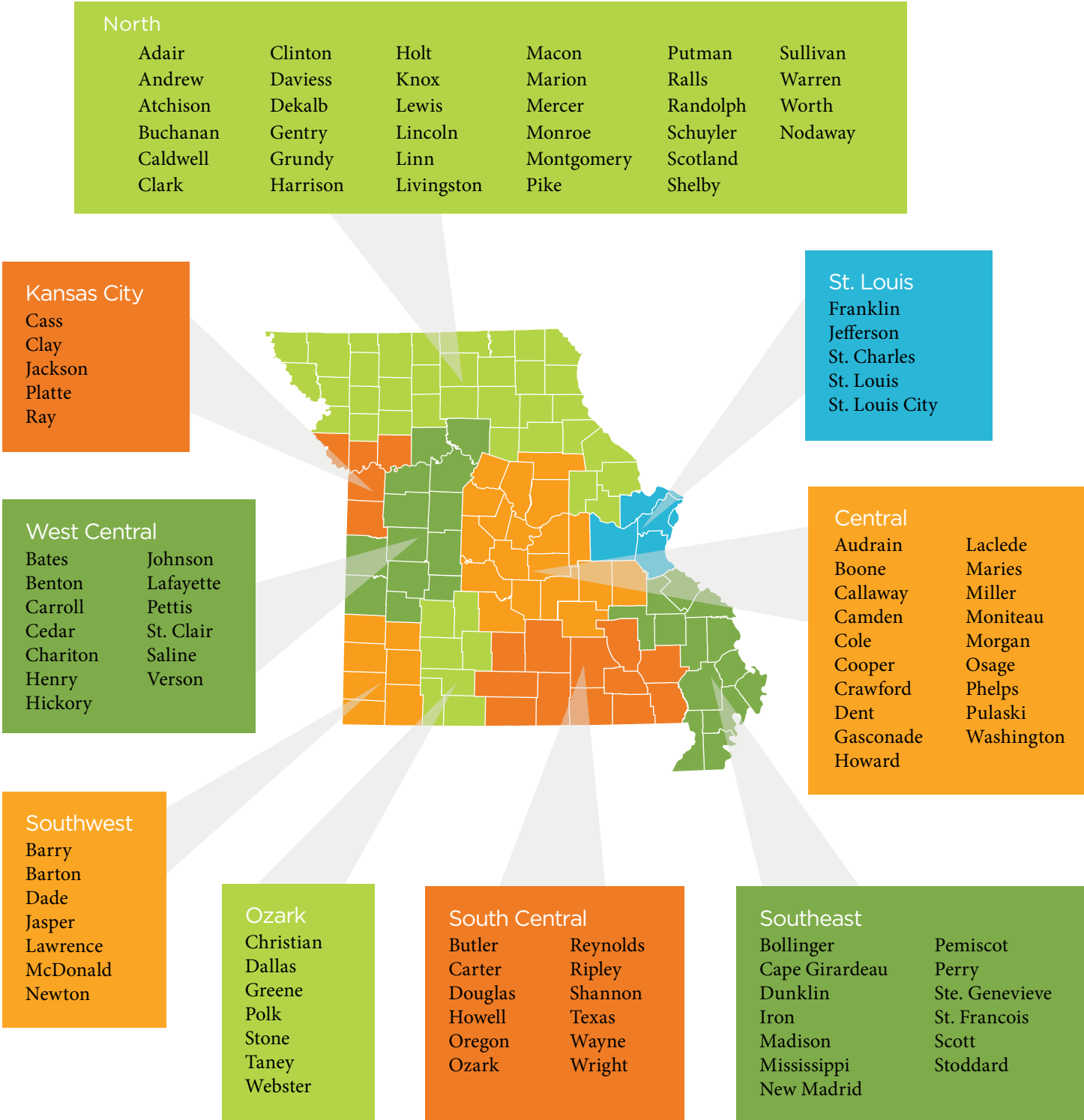
## OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC in cooperation with the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. Occupational Employment Projections.

<https://meric.mo.gov/workforce-research/occupational-projections>

# APPENDIX

## MISSOURI WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT REGIONS BY COUNTY





DEPARTMENT OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION &  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

[dhewd.mo.gov](http://dhewd.mo.gov)



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